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# EASTERN

F.O.
371
[redacted]

1947

PALESTINE

FILE NO. 48

pp. 6603 - 6733

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1947

# E

PALESTINE

2

E 6603

24 JUL 1947

Registry Number } E6603/48/31.

FROM Mr Wand. Rome.

No. to M. Beith.

Dated 37/153/47.

Received in Registry } 16 July. 24 July.

Proposed Meeting of Jewish Agency Executive Committee in Rome.

Jewish Agency have been told that there might be opposition by the Vatican to meeting of executive committee in Rome. Agency have been pressing for that problem could be solved by entry of 400,000,000 Jews into Palestine. Italians would be glad if no-Jewish settlement were reached.

Last Paper.

E6600

References.

241/

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

a) C.O 30 July.

61818

(Minutes.)

Copy C.O.

Jewish Section F.B.W.S. 1/8

H.3. 24/7

(Action completed.) R 2/8

(Index.) 24/Jan/48

Next Paper.

E 6604

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

TELEPHONE:—
ROME ~~43.951~~ 776551

BRITISH EMBASSY,
ROME.

16th July, 1947.

37/153/47

6603
21 JUL 1947

Confidential

Dear Beith,

In case you have not heard the story already, you may be interested to learn that the Director of Political Affairs at the Italian Foreign Ministry told me the other day that representatives of the "Executive Committee" of the Jewish Agency had been to him a week or two ago and pressed for permission to hold the next meeting of their Committee (I gathered during August) in Rome. They had the cheek to argue that since the Mandate had designated the Jewish Agency as the body with whom the British Government should co-operate in setting up the national home, it could be taken for granted that the British Government could not object to this meeting taking place in Rome.

2. I replied that I hoped the Italian Government had no intention of allowing the meeting in Rome since I could not think of anything more likely to encourage the Jews to believe that the Italian Government were favourable to illegal immigration from Italy. Zoppi said that he had disposed of the matter by telling the Jewish representatives that the meeting of a representative Jewish body in the centre of Catholicism might raise some difficulties with the Vatican (!) He had then done nothing for a week, at the end of which he heard that the Jews had lost patience and decided to have their meeting at Zurich.

/3.

J.G.S. Beith, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

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4

RECEIVED IN C.B.
... 1947
... TO DEP..
24/7

3. Zoppi also told me that as the competent senior official at the Palazzo Chigi he was being subjected to a barrage of Jewish propaganda, on the line that the Jewish objective was "only" to put a further four hundred thousand Jews into Palestine, which would solve the Jewish problem in Europe, and that the Jews could not understand why the British were opposing this desirable policy and bringing down on themselves the hatred of Jewry throughout the whole world. I was rather disappointed to see that this propaganda had had some effect upon the usually very sensible Zoppi, who suggested that after all was it really worth while adding to the troubles of the world by resisting this Jewish pressure. I did my best to disabuse him, but we must I fear accept the fact that while prepared to co-operate with us within limits, the Italians would be heartily glad if a "pro-Jewish" settlement of the Palestinian problem could be reached, which would enable them to dump as quickly as possible into Palestine the large floating population of Jews in this country, who are in every way such an embarrassment to the Italian authorities. This may play its part when Italy gets into the U.N.O.

Yours ever,
J.G.Ward

2

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Registry Number
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# E

PALESTINE

E 6604

21 JUL 1947

5

Registry Number: E6604/48/31.

FROM Sir N. Charles
Rome.

No. 301.

Dated 37/1947/47.

Received in Registry: 15 July. 24 July.

Illegal Immigration through Italy.

Ref Rome tel 1505 (E6197/48/31)
Translation of letter from SIGNOR FRANSONI, M.F.A. of 9th July, regarding illegal traffic of Jews across Northern frontier of Italy en route for Palestine.

**Last Paper.**

E6603

**References.**

(Minutes.)

Please see minutes at E6476. This proposal may be raised by the Official Committee as Mr Ede. Eversley is rather keen on the idea.

(J.E. CABLE)
26/7

Mr. Beith/Gn return in the last para.
This request has been met in the shape of Mr Rusk

HB. July 29

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

**Next Paper.**

E6609

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

No. 301

( 37/147/47 )

6

E

HIS Majesty's Representative at Rome presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

*British Embassy,*
*Rome,* 15th July , 1947.

E 6604
21 JUL 1947

*Reference to previous ~~despatch~~* telegram

~~From~~ To Foreign Office : No. 1505

E 6197/48/31.

*Description of Enclosure.*

| Name and Date. | Subject. |
|---|---|
| Translation of letter from Signor Fransoni of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome, to the British Ambassador, Rome, of 9th July, 1947. | Illegal traffic of Jews across Northern frontier of Italy en route for Palestine. |

(13191) Wt.42998/3052 5,000 1/40 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

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7

COPY. TRANSLATION.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
ROME.
9th July, 1947.

My dear Ambassador,

As you will recall, in your letter of 3rd June you drew the attention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the ever increasing numbers of Jews crossing our northern frontier illegally and subsequently attempting to take ship clandestinely for Palestine, and requested that the measures already taken by the Italian Police to prevent this illegal traffic should be duly intensified.

The question has been very thoroughly examined by the competent authorities, who have agreed to adopt a number of measures to be put into force immediately. The principle measures are as follows:-

(1) Intensification of police control along the whole length of the northern frontier, especially in the area of the BRENNER and the RESIO Passes. A number of mobile control posts will be set up, and a stricter control will be exercised over motor vehicles using the roads in these areas. In particular, all vehicles found to be transporting illegal immigrants - no matter what number plate they may be carrying - will be confiscated, and taken to the car park at MONZA.

(2) Any illegal immigrants discovered in Bolzano Province will be turned back to Austria over the SAN CANDIDO Pass, in view of the difficulties raised by the French over readmitting them into the Tyrol.

I should be grateful if in bringing the above to the notice of the British authorities you would ask them to consider making arrangements for receiving at the frontier post at SAN CANDIDO any illegal immigrants who are turned back.

(3) Illegal immigrants discovered in other Provinces of the country will be sent to the Island of USTICA.

Furthermore, the possibilities of cooperating with authorities on the far side of the Northern frontier in order to coordinate preventive action against illegal immigration have also been reviewed. I should be grateful if you would ask the British authorities in AUSTRIA to send one of their officials to establish contact with the Zonal Inspector at the BOLZANO Prefecture, Dr. Palumbo VARGAS. If this proposal is accepted, I would ask you to let me know in good time the name of the official, and when he will be able to go to BOLZANO.

Please accept, my dear Ambassador, my deepest respects,

(Signed) Fransoni

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76

8

# E

PALESTINE

E 6609

24 JUL 1947

*Registry Number* E6609/48/31.

**FROM** United Nations Dept of Public Information

*No.* Pal/62.

*Dated* 9 July

*Received in Registry* 24 July.

Illegal Immigration.

Contains replies of Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Chile & Egypt on question of Jewish Immigration

**Last Paper.**

E6604

**References.**

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

(*Minutes.*)

N.A. Dept. 25/7

S.A. Dept. Bmb. 30/7.

Egyptian Dept. 31/7

29/7

(Action completed.)

PR. 1/8

(Index.)

24/9/48

**Next Paper.**

E6638

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

UNITED NATIONS
Department of Public Information
Press Division
Lake Success, Nassau County, New York

FOREIGN OFFICE

E 6609

24 JUL 1947

Press Release PAL/62
9 July 1947

## FOUR MORE GOVERNMENTS REPLY ON QUESTION OF JEWISH IMMIGRATION

The Secretary-General has received the replies of four more Governments--Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Chile and Egypt--to his letter to member nations of 29 May with which he transmitted a copy of a letter from the United Kingdom. The UK letter, citing the special General Assembly resolution on Palestine of 15 May 1947 urged that members of the United Nations should assist a peaceful solution of the Palestine problem by "doing all in their power to discourage illegal immigration (into Palestine) while the question remains sub judice."

In addition to the four new replies, an additional note has been received from the United States Secretary of State.

The new replies contain the following remarks:

Haiti -

"In thanking you for your communication, I have the pleasure of informing you that I have transmitted your communication to the competent authority of my Government and shall keep you informed of whatever action may be taken."

Dominican Republic -

"I have the honour to inform you, in reply, that my Government will comply with the terms of the above-mentioned General Assembly Resolution."

Chile -

"My Government, after having taken due notice of the communication, has directed me to inform you that with due respect to the international obligations and consistent as a Member of the United Nations, it will do everything possible to contribute in the solution of the Palestine problem and thus expedite the work of the Special Committee established by the recent special General Assembly."

Egypt -

"In reply I wish to inform Your Excellency that his Majesty's Government takes greatest interest in this question."

The Secretary-General also received a note from the Secretary of State of the United States, in reply to his letter of 29 May, with reference to a statement of the President of the United States of America which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly of the United Nations in special session on May 15, 1947, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"'The General Assembly calls upon all Governments and peoples, and particularly on the inhabitants of Palestine, to refrain, pending action by the General Assembly on the report of the special committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force or any other action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine.

MORE

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"'The search for a fair and workable solution of the Palestine problem is one of the most difficult and important tasks confronting the United Nations. It is in the interest of the United States as well of the United Nations that the efforts of the United Nations to solve this problem meet with success.

"'Activities calculated further to inflame the passions of the inhabitants of Palestine, to undermine law and order in Palestine, or to promote violence in that country are certain to create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the Palestine problem and to render still more difficult the tasks which the United Nations has before it.

"'I therefore urge every citizen and resident of the United States, in the interests of this country, of world peace, and of humanity, meticulously to refrain, while the United Nations is considering the problem of Palestine, from engaging in, or facilitating, any activities which tend further to inflame the passions of the inhabitants of Palestine, to undermine law and order in Palestine, or to promote violence in that country'"

Previous replies were received from Ecuador, Nicaragua, China, The Philippine Republic, USA, Australia, Mexico, El Salvador, Canada, and Guatemala (See Press Release PAL/39) and from the USSR and Colombia (See Press Release Pal/47)

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E6638 /G
24 JUL 1947
24 JUL 1947

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 26 1947 | Palestine<br>EASTERN | 11 |

E 6638 /48/G 31

Sir P. Nichols,
Prague.
195
July 23rd.

S.S. President Warfield.

Rep. to tel 848 (E6448/48/G) gives details of Prague press reports. The main charges against H.M.G. are that the vessel was attacked by British warships & many casualties were involved.

Last Paper.
(E6688) E6599

(Minutes.)

References.

Tel sent on E 6542 24/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)
8) IIP 26 July

(Action completed.) 25/7

(Index.) W.H.

Next Paper.
(E6643)



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E

E10448/G 12

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM PRAGUE TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir P. Nichols
No. 795
23rd July, 1947

D. 10.50 a.m. 23rd July, 1947
R. 2.40 p.m. 23rd July, 1947

ddddddd

IMMEDIATE

Your telegram No. 878. E10448 E 5

Reports of this incident appeared in several Prague papers on one day but there has not been any subsequent reference to it. The main charges against us are that the [grp. undec: ?ship] was "attacked by 6 British warships 45 miles off the coast of Palestine, that is to say, 3 miles outside territorial waters" and that her casualties were several dead, 20 seriously and 100 slightly wounded.

2. Your telegram No. 878, your telegram No. 887 and your telegram No. 888 do not contain facts required to deal with these charges. I should be glad if you would send me immediate guidance on these points.

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24 JUL 1947
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1947

Palestine

EASTERN

E 6643/G

24 JUL 1947

244

13

E 6643/48/G 31

Mr. Duff Cooper,
Paris.
434
July 23d.

S.S. President Warfield.

Gives details of an interview with M. Bidault, who promised full cooperation

Last Paper.

(E 6638)

References.

(Minutes.)

M. Bidault was, however, unsuccessful, or, at any rate, not sufficiently successful. See E 6698 and minute thereon.

26/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) I.I.P. 26 July

(Action completed.)

28/7/7

(Index.)

Next Paper.

(E 6644)

27437 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

24 JUL 1947

E E6643 14

CYPHER/OTP DEPARTMENTAL NO.2.

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper.
No. 734.
23rd July, 1947.

D: 3.20 p.m. 23rd July, 1947.
R: 4.40 p.m. 23rd July, 1947.

@@@ @@@ @@@

IMPORTANT

President Warfield.

I had asked to see Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday in order to impress upon him the importance attached by His Majesty's Government to the returning to France of the passengers who left in the President Warfield. He was, however, away yesterday and left early this morning for Rambouillet to attend a Cabinet Council. He telephoned to say that if I would go down there he would arrange for the discussion of this matter to be postponed until he had seen me. I thought it worth while to make the journey, principally with the intention of impressing not upon him, but upon his colleagues, the serious view which we take of the matter.

2. M. Bidault came out of the Cabinet meeting to see me, and I found that he felt just as strongly upon the subject as I did. He was also very fully documented and seemed to be aware of all the facts. He said he thought that it was the height of madness for the French Government to give us trouble over this matter when so many things of much greater importance were being considered. He attributed the attitude of his Socialist colleagues, especially that of the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Transport to the influence of M. Blum. I said that I thought M.Blum must be ignorant of the facts, for nobody who sympathised with the Jews, as I did myself, would encourage this money-making racket, of which they were the unfortunate victims.

3. With regard to the two ships now at Bayonne, he said that M. Moch had undertaken that no passengers should go aboard. I replied that this was quite insufficient guarantee, as if they were allowed to sail they would doubtless pick up their passengers at some small port in the Mediterranean. He said that one of the ships had no legal nationality and could therefore be held up. He did not see how they could hold up the other. I suggested that there were always ways and means of delaying indefinitely the sailing of a ship if it was thought desirable.

4. He promised to do his utmost at the meeting which was about to take place, and I am sure that he will.

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E6647/48/31

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282 1947

Palestine

EASTERN

E 6648/G

24 JUL 1947

15

E 6648/48/G 31

Commonwealth Relations Office to Mr. Beeley F2480/9 July 21st.

**Illegal Immigration into Palestine**

Encloses copies of four documents from the Canadian authorities giving details of activities in Canada to raise funds for the support of illegal immigration activities in Palestine.

**Last Paper.**

E6647

**References.**

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

This is very satisfactory. If the Canadians succeed in finding some means of preventing the raising of funds in Canada, that might provide an argument for use with the U.S. Govt.

Commonwealth Liaison Dept.

N.A. Dept.

(J. E. CABLE) 24/7

This material is now slightly old. You might consider it worth while, after consultation with Mr Walker, to get in touch with Mr Holmes of Canada House and get the latest information direct from him, and see if the Canadian authorities have in fact had any success.

MAYHEW 28/7

With there is obviously more official goodwill towards us in Canada on this issue, I wonder whether there are in fact any effective steps that can be taken.

28653 F.O.P.

(Action completed.)

25/11/8

(Index.)

**Next Paper.**

E6649

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16 I have spoken to Mr. Walker, who has promised to let us inform us of the latest position.

31/7

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E6648

E. Em

17

24 JUL 1947

Commonwealth Relations Office,

Downing Street.

F.2780/9
SECRET

21st July, 1947.

Dear Beeley,

With reference to the United Kingdom Government's appeal of 23rd May to the United Nations to request all member states to take the strictest precautions to prevent illegal immigration into Palestine, while the question remains sub-judice, I enclose for your confidential information copies of four documents as received from the Canadian authorities in London.

2. These documents, which show the attention being given by the Canadian Government to the raising of funds in Canada for the support of illegal immigration and terrorist activities in Palestine, are letters from the Under Secretary of State for External Affairs to the following departments in Ottawa:-

(i) the Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police;

(ii) the Deputy Minister, Department of Justice;

(iii) Mr. H.F. Holloway, Foreign Exchange Control Board;

(iv) Lieutenant Colonel P.L. Browne, National War Services.

Yours sincerely,

Chas Dalton.

H. BEELEY, ESQ., C.B.E.,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

(A copy has gone to Matheson in the C.O.)

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COPY/

SECRET. 18

Ottawa, June 13th, 1947.

TO:

The Commissioner,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,
Ottawa.

Illegal Immigration into Palestine.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs has received from Mr. Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations, a letter dated May 29, 1947, transmitting a communication on the subject of illegal immigration into Palestine which was addressed to him on May 23rd by the Permament United Kingdom Representative to the United Nations. I enclose copies of both communications, together with a copy of the reply of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, dated June 5th.

2. It is chiefly across European territory that the movement of Jewish refugees toward Palestine has taken place, and it is chiefly from European ports that immigrants not in possession of valid entry visas have been sailing. Canada, however, is concerned in two respects with the illegal traffic. In the first place four Canadian corvettes, sold as surplus war material, appear to have been resold for use in smuggling immigrants to Palestine. At least two of these corvettes have been intercepted in Palestinian waters by units of the Royal Navy. In the second place, it is believed that funds raised in Canada are being used to help finance the illegal traffic.

3. We have been in touch with War Assets Corporation and the Deputy Minister of Justice with regard to the first of these problems. I should be grateful if you would take the second under consideration and let me know what measures might be adopted to discourage the collection in Canada of funds to transport illegal immigrants to Palestine, and by what means individuals or organizations might be prevented from sending funds out of the country for this purpose.

4. A third question, not unrelated to the foregoing, is raised by the increasing activity in this country of the Canadian League for a Free Palestine and the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, both of which are trying to win support in Canada for terrorist groups in Palestine. A denunciation of the activities of these organizations by the president of the United Zionist Council of Canada was published in the Montreal Gazette on June 3, 1947 (see photostat copy attached). I should appreciate, of course, any suggestions you may have to offer concerning methods which might be taken to prevent Canadian funds from being used to finance terrorist activities.

5. I enclose for your information copies of similar communications which I have addressed today to the Deputy Minister, Department of Justice and Mr. H.F.Holloway of the Foreign Exchange Control Board.

(Sgd.) Escott Reid
for the Under-Secretary of State for
External Affs.

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19

2.

MONTREAL GAZETTE June 3, 1947.

## Advise Jews Shun Terrorist Groups.

## United Zionist Council Head Deprecates Rise of Terror as Political Weapon.

Canadians are advised to "shun" the Canadian League for a Free Palestine, the United Zionist Council of Canada said in a statement issued yesterday. The Zionist Organization in Canada as well as in the United States and other parts of the world is in no way connected with, and "strongly deprecates" the "irresponsible groups in Palestine and on this continent which support the use of terror as a political weapon".

The statement, by Samuel J. Zacks, president of the United Zionist Council of Canada, reads in part:

"In recent weeks, Canadian newspapers and radio commentators have given considerable space and time to their comments on the activities of the terrorists in Palestine, as well as the small complementary groups in the United States such as the American League for a Free Palestine, and in Canada the Canadian League for a Free Palestine. In fairness to the overwhelming majority of Jews and Zionists who do not belong to and do not help the above-mentioned groups, their point of view should be made known. We are hopeful, therefore, for a better understanding with regard to the legitimate aspirations of the Jewish people for Palestine.

### Group Denounced.

"The United Zionist Council of Canada wishes to draw public attention once more to the nature of the irresponsible groups in Palestine and on this continent which support the use of terror as a political weapon. The Zionist Congress, which represents the world movement has unequivocally denounced the Irgun Zvai Leumi, the Stern Group and the American League for a Free Palestine, which purports to support them. The Vaad Leumi, which is the democratically elected council of the Jews of Palestine, has also spoken time and again in the strongest terms of these dangerous factions, which stand outside the* Zionist Council of Canada, too, wishes to reiterate its stand against these small dissident groups.

"Ben Hecht and his associates, whose advertisements in theAmerican press have shocked sober-minded people everywhere, are not and have never been part of American Zionism. They have made no constructive contribution to the upbuilding of the Jewish Homeland. Their flamboyant, bitter, anti-British self-advertising campaign builds nothing and destroys much.

### Democratic Movement.

"Both of Palestine and America, these appeals to passion have found their response chiefly among those who have never been part of our democratic movement. We regard these people as irresponsible sensationalists and believe they do not represent Jewish opinion anywhere.

"The American League for a Free Palestine has been chiefly a noisy self-advertising agency and Canadians are advised to shun its Canadian counterpart. No person, who is connected

/with....

* Zionist movement and threaten its very existence. The United....

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20

with the Canadian League may remain associated with any of the organizations of the official Zionist movement in this country.

"We are confident that Canadian Jews will repudiate the sentiments belittling the Jewish Agency in the addresses of certain speakers invited to Canada by various fronts operating under the aegis of the League for Free Palestine. The Jewish Agency is the only recognized authoritative body under the Mandate that has the right to speak for world Jewry on matters pertaining to Palestine."

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COPY

21

E.P. MacCallum:mc

SECRET

Ottawa, June 13th, 1947.

Dear Mr. Holloway:

There has come to the attention of the Department of External Affairs a problem raised by the activities in Canada of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation and the Canadian League for a Free Palestine. Both organizations are believed to be trying to collect funds in this country for the support of terrorist groups in Palestine.

2. The President of the United Zionist Council of of Canada has denounced the activities of these two organizations in a statement published in the Montreal Gazette on June 3, 1947, a photostat copy of which is attached. In spite of this denunciation it is likely that representatives of the two organizations will continue to raise funds in Canada and that they will resort to a variety of expedients to get money out of the country for the use of the Irgun Zvai Leumi or the Stern gang in Palestine.

3. I should be grateful if you would take the matter under consideration and let me know if anything can be done to prevent the export of Canadian funds for the support of Palestinian terrorists.

4. The question of the use of funds collected in Canada to finance illegal Jewish immigration into Palestine is also before the Department. It is believed that this movement enjoys at least the moral support of the Zionist Organization in Canada and of organizations connected with it.

5. The United Kingdom Government appealed to Members of the United Nations, in a letter of May 23rd transmitted to them by the Secretary-General of the Organization on May 29th, to do all in their power to discourage illegal immigration while the Palestine question is sub judice. I enclose for your information a copy of the appeal of the United Kingdom Government, together with the letter of transmittal signed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the reply of the Secretary of State for External Affairs dated June 5. I should appreciate anything you may be able to do in the way of preventing the export of funds to help finance this illegal traffic.

6. I am sending a copy of this letter to Lieut.-Colonel P.L. Browne of National War Services.

Sincerely yours,

(ESCOTT REID)

for the
Under-Secretary of State for
External Affairs.

Reference: FO 371/61818

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5. 22

SECRET

Ottawa, June 13th, 1947.

TO:

Lieut.-Colonel P.L. Browne,
National War Services,
O t t a w a.

I am transmitting to you herewith a copy of a letter I have written today to Mr. H.F. Holloway of the Foreign Exchange Control Board on the export of Canadian funds for the support of terrorist groups in Palestine and in aid of illegal immigration into Palestine.

2. I should be interested to have your comments.

ESCOTT REID

for the

Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs

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284 1947

Palestine
EASTERN

E 6650 /G
24 JUL 47
23

E 6650 /48/G
Sir N. Charles,
Rome
1580
July 22nd

S.S. Warfield
Rep. to F.O. tel. to Paris (E.6448/48/G)
gives details of a report in the
"Rome Daily American" concerning
the S.S. President Warfield.

Last Paper.
E6646
E6649

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)
P) U.P. 26 July
2R) Chancery Rome
from E Dept 11th Aug
To) Valletta 95 26 July
Rpt to Paris 1710
Rome 1618
Wiesbaden 549
Palestine
S) U.P. 12 Aug

(Action completed.)
DF 12/8

(Index.)

Next Paper.
E6651
(E6689)

(Minutes.)
This is regrettable, but Sir Noel Charles seems to have done all that is needed already.
Information Policy Dept. RAM 29/7
News Dept.

(S.H. CABLE) 26/7
I attach copies - obtained after some delay - of the two AP stories of 21 July, that closely gave rise to the stories in "Rome Daily American". The passages underlined, though they do not in fact say what they are alleged to have said, are obviously capable of that misinterpretation. Neither passage is based on any thing said by News Department, who were not discussing the matter at that stage.

Mr. Davidson, the author of the first message, is usually helpful, and can be relied on to set the matter right in any future general discussion of the subject.

27437 F.O.P. Sc draft to HB Aug 8 Rome

C.P. Renouf 5/8

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Reference: FO 371/61818

24

Cypher/OTP. DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir N. Charles.
No. 1580.

22nd July, 1947.

D. 4.23 p.m. 22nd July, 1947.
R. 8.10 p.m. 22nd July, 1947.

- - - -

IMPORTANT.

Your telegram to Paris 1634.

Jewish illegal immigration.

"Rome Daily American" (local English language Daily, American owned) of July 22nd reproduces an Associated Press report quoting "authoritative Whitehall informants" to the effect that His Majesty's Government has obtained agreement with French and Italian Governments to return Jewish illegal immigrants to ports of embarkation.

2. We have already had enquiries from the press as a result of above report about our arrangements with Italian Government. As you know, we have so far not obtained any undertaking from Italian Government in this issue (see my telegram 1210) but of course French Agreement reported in your telegram 1655 to Paris to take back passengers on "President Warfield" will greatly strengthen our hand if we have to take up a similar case with Italian Government (your telegram 1513). I have authorised my Information Secretary to reply to the press that while no specific agreement exists with the Italian Government, return of illegal immigrants to ports of departure is normal procedure e.g. case of "Warfield".

3. Meanwhile, Associated Press report quoted in paragraph 1. above is regrettable in so far as Italy is concerned, since it may provoke the Italian Government to a denial and make it more difficult to secure their agreement if we have to demand re-admission to Italy of a specific party.

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25

APL 34 PSS ASSD

GAVSHONS 11350 AUTHORITATIVE WHITEHALL INFORMANTS REPORTED TODAY THREE BRITISH SHIPS WERE CARRYING 4500 VISALESS ZION-SEEKING JEWISH WOULD BE IMMIGRANTS BACK FROM HAIFA TO CETTE, THEIR PORT OF EMBARKATION IN SOUTHERN FRANCE.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL OFFICE SPOKESMEN EMPHATICALLY REFUSED TO COMMENT ON SUBJECT, HOWEVER

KBI 356DST JULY 21

21350 INFORMANTS SAID BRITAINS SURPRISE MOVE INDICATED "NEWER AND TOUGHER" APPROACH TO HANDLING OF PALESTINE BOUND IMMIGRANT SHIPS.

BRITAIN THEY ADDED HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH "CERTAIN" UNNAMED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ON WHOLE QUESTION OF JEWISH IMMIGRATION INTO PALESTINE. ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE WITH AT LEAST TWO GOVERNMENTS -- THE ITALIAN AND FRENCH -- TO HALT FLOW OF EUROPEAN JEWS TO PALESTINE BY RETURNING THEM ACROSS THE FRONTIERS OF THOSE TWO COUNTRIES, BACK TO THE POINTS OF THEIR ORIGIN.

INFORMANTS SAID THEY NOT ABLE TO SAY IMMEDIATELY WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO JEWS ONCE THEY RETURNED EUROPE

PRESUMABLY THEY WILL ACCOMMODATED IN EXISTING OR NEW DEEPEE CAMPS.

KB1410DBST JULY 21

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26

31350 (PREVIOUS CABLED) MEANWHILE THE JEWISH AGENCY SAID THAT JEWS FELT "GREAT CONCERN" OVER THE FATE OF THE 4,500 WOULD-BE IMMIGRANTS WHOSE SHIP, THE PRESIDENT WARFIELD WAS SEIZED BY THE ROYAL NAVY IN A PITCHED BATTLE LAST FRIDAY.

TEXT OF AN AGENCY STATEMENT SAID:
"GREAT CONCERN IS FELT IN JEWISH QUARTERS AS TO THE FATE OF 4,500 JEWS WHO WERE DEPORTED BY THE ROYAL NAVY FROM PALESTINE AFTER MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY AND WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE STILL UNKNOWN.

"IN THIS CONNECTION PROF. SELIG BRODETSKY, HEAD OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE JEWISH AGENCY IN LONDON, IS VISITING THE COLONIAL OFFICE AT 1500 GMT TODAY."

A SPOKESMAN SAID BRODETSKY WOULD "MAKE INQUIRIES" TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE DEPORTEES WERE BEING RETURNED TO THEIR EMBARKATION PORT IN FRANCE.

1520/21JUL.

41350 THE FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES IN CETTE "APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN AS CAREFUL AS THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN" BUT THE PRESIDENT WARFIELD APPARENTLY HAD CUT HER MOORINGS AND SLIPPED AWAY AT NIGHT.

1521/21JUL

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fifth 1350 A COLONIAL OFFICE SPOKESMAN, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, SAID THE CYPRUS CAMPS - WHERE UNAUTHORISED JEWISH IMMIGRANTS ARE HELD NORMALLY - CERTAINLY WERE NOT FULL. THERE WERE PROBABLY ABOUT 10,000 CAMP INMATES THERE PRESENTLY BUT MANY MORE COULD BE X ACCOMMODATED, HE ADDED.

THE WHITEHALL INFORMANTS SUGGESTED THAT THIS COULD MEAN ANY JEWS SEIZED BY THE BRITISH OFF THE PALESTINE COAST WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SENT TO CYPRUS IF NO ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR THEIR RETURN TO THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FROM WHICH THEY HAD SAILED.

THEY POINTED OUT THAT THE RETURN OF VISALESS JEWS TO THE PORTS AND COUNTRIES OF THEIR EMBARKATION IMPLIED "A CERTAIN MEASURE OF COOPERATION ON THE PART OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT."

THE NEW POLICY PRESUMABLY HAS BEEN EVOLVED WITH A VIEW TO DISCOURAGING JEWS TO LEAVE EUROPEAN SHORES. THE INFORMANTS SAID IF THE JEWS WERE AWARE THAT THEY WOULD NOT GO TO CYPRUS ONCE THEY HAD BEEN PICKED UP, THEY MIGHT "THINK TWICE" BEFORE BOARDING THE SOCALLED IMMIGRANT "HELLSHIPS."

THE DEEPEES DID NOT MIND SPENDING SOME TIME IN CYPRUS, IN THE BRITISH VIEW, BECAUSE 750 IMMIGRANTS WERE SELECTED FROM CAMPS THERE MONTHLY AND WERE GIVEN PERMITS ALLOWING THEM LEGALLY TO ENTER THE HOLY LAND, THE INFORMANTS DECLARED.

ONE INFORMANT [redacted] EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THE MOVE IN RETURNING THE "PRESIDENT WARFIELD" JEWS BACK TO FRANCE WAS NOT TO BE REGARDED AS A "PRESEDENT."

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APR76

28

PHILLIPS 11715 NIGHTER LONDON, JULY 21 -(AP)- GREAT BRITAIN, TAKING STERNER MEASURES AGAINST "ILLEGAL" EMIGRATION TO PALESTINE, IS RETURNING 4,500 VISALESS JEWS INTERCEPTED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN LASTFRIDAY NIGHT TO CETE (CORRECT), SOUTHERN FRANCE, INSTEAD OF TO DETENTION CAMPS IN CYPRUS, INFORMED WHITEHALL SOURCES SAID TODAY.

THE SURPRISE MOVE WAS DISCLOSED AS THE JEWISH AGENCY IN LONDON ASKED THE COLONIAL OFFICE FOR NEWS OF THE FATE OF THE WOULDBE IMMIGRANTS FROM THE "PRESIDENT WARFIELD," FORMER CHESAPEAKE BAY FERRY CAUGHT BY BRITISH WARSHIPS AS SHE SLIPPED PAST THE EGYPTIAN PALESTINE FRONTIER.

IT WAS THE FIRST MAJOR CHANGE IN BRITISH POLICY FOR DISCOURAGING ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO PALESTINE SINCE THE CYPRUS CAMPS WERE SET UP IN AUGUST, 1946, AND SOME INFORMANTS SUGGESTED IT MIGHT MEAN THE INAUGURATION OF A NEW "GET TOUGH" POLICY.

OFFICIALLY WHEREABOUTS OF THE WARFIELD'S PASSENGERS, TRANSHIPPED TO THREE BRITISH VESSELS AT HAIFA EARLY SATURDAY AFTER A STRUGGLE AT SEA WITH A BRITISH BOARDING PARTY, IN WHICH THREE WERE KILLED OR FATALLY WOUNDED, REMAINED A MYSTERY.

1722 21JULY

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21715 THE JEWISH AGENCY SAID PROFESSOR SELIG BRODETSKY, HEAD OF ITS POLITICAL DEPARTMENT HERE, WHO CALLED ON THE COLONIAL OFFICE, WOULD EXPRESS "GREAT CONCERN" OVER THE IMMIGRANTS' FATE.

THE "MYSTERY" IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR TWO OR THREE MORE DAYS, ONE HIGHLY PLACED INFORMANT SAID, NOTING THAT THE VOYAGE FROM PALESTINE BACK TO FRANCE NORMALLY WOULD TAKE FOUR OR FIVE DAYS.

BOTH THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND THE COLONIAL OFFICE FLATLY DECLINED COMMENT IN ANY FORM.

OTHER SOURCES SAID, HOWEVER, [redacted] THE NEW MOVE RESULTED FROM BRITISH CONSULTATIONS ON THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF PALESTINE IMMIGRATION WITH "CERTAIN" EUROPEAN POWERS, THAT HAD BROUGHT AGREEMENTS SO FAR WITH TWO -- FRANCE AND ITALY.

HINTING THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT TAKING "ILLEGALS" BACK, AND MIGHT CHANGE THEIR POLICIES, AND THAT OTHER COUNTRIES MAY HAVE REFUSED, ONE SOURCE WARNED AGAINST TAKING THE CASE OF THE WARFIELD AS A PRECEDENT.

"THERE ARE MANY FACTORS INVOLVED, AND IT MIGHT WELL BE THIS WILL PROVE AN ISOLATED CASE," HE SAID.

HE ADDED IT WAS FAIRLY CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT BRITAIN WOULD CONTINUE A "GET TOUGH" POLICY, WHETHER BY RETURNING SHIPS TO EMBARKATION PORTS OR BY OTHER MEANS, UNTIL THE UNITED NATIONS FINALLY SETTLES THE PALESTINE PROBLEM.

1626 21JULY

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APR 84

30

THIRD 1715 INFORMANTS STRESSED REPEATEDLY THAT THE SOLE PURPOSE WAS TO CUT DOWN THE FLOW OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. THEY SAID THE COST OF MAINTAINING THE CYPRUS CAMPS WAS NOT A FACTOR AND THAT UNREST AMONG THE DETAINEES THERE HAD QUIETED RECENTLY.

THE TROUBLE WITH CYPRUS DETENTION, THEY SAID, WAS THAT IT HAD NOT DETERRED THE FLOW OF WOULDBE SETTLERS TO PALESTINE, MANY OF WHOM SEEMED TO THINK THEY COULD "JUMP THE QUEUE" AND GET IN SOONER AT THE COST OF A FEW MONTHS DETENTION -- "AND THAT'S AN IDEA WE WANT DEFINITELY TO DISCOURAGE."

WHETHER THE WARFIELD'S PASSENGERS WOULD BE SENT BACK TO THE CAMPS FROM WHICH THEY CAME AND WHO WOULD TAKE CARE OF THEM COULD NOT BE LEARNED HERE TONIGHT.

1754 21JULY.

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry No. E6656/48/6

*Draft.*

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Rome Chancery

from

Eastern Dept.

August 16th 31

OUT FILED cpkr

Dear Chancery,

In your telegram no. 1580, you mentioned an unfortunate report which had appeared in the "Rome Daily American" to the effect that H.M.G. had secured the consent of the French and Italian Govts. to the "refoulement" of Jewish illegal immigrants embarking from those countries.

2. We have seen the A.P. telegrams on which this story was evidently based and notice that the "Rome Daily American" has evidently added its own embroidery

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3d

Embassy to the Hague
Consular despatch.
No. 1209, Blank spaces are
not filled in owing
to lack of Naval Despatch.

3. We hope that
the gun fought action,
referred in para. 2 of your
telegram under reference,
had failed this morning
and that there have been
no subsequent operations.

Yours ever
Eastern Dept.

8/5

33

OUT FILE

(E 6650/48/G)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S. W. 1.

11th August, 1947.

Dear Chancery,

In your telegram No. 1580, you mentioned an unfortunate report which had appeared in the "Rome Daily American" to the effect that His Majesty's Government had secured the consent of the French and Italian Governments to the "refoulement" of Jewish illegal immigrants embarking from those countries.

2. We have seen the A.P. telegrams on which this story was evidently based and notice that the "Rome Daily American" has evidently added its own embroidery to the less imaginative original. Needless to say, these reports are not based on anything said by News Department.

3. We hope that your prompt action, as reported in paragraph 2 of your telegram under reference, has killed this story and that there have been no subsequent repercussions.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Rome.

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DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN. NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.
3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry No. E6650/48/G.

~~Top Secret.~~
Secret.
~~Confidential.~~
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

*Draft.*

MARSEILLES

*Telegram.*
*No.* 95.
*(Date)* July 26th

*Repeat to:*
PARIS (Important) 1710. No ---
~~ROME No~~ 628.
~~WASHINGTON~~ No 2579
~~High Commissioner~~ Palestine No ---
~~En Clair.~~
~~Code.~~
*Cypher.*

*Distribution:—*
Departmental No. 2

*Copies to:—*
I. I. P.

34

*F.O.,*

*Despatched* 5.30 *M.* 194 .26th

IMPORTANT
SECRET.

"President Warfield"

Following is text of Telegram no. 1056 from Palestine to H.M. Ambassador Paris.

2. Begins

[Insert from (A) to (B) on attached copy] Ends.

2. [sic] In spite of precautions taken by French authorities, it seems inevitable that disembarkation will be reported and probably misrepresented by hostile journalists. As soon as possible

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Reference: FO 371/61818

35 possible after disembarkation, therefore, you should send, by most immediate en clair telegram, a brief, factual account suitable for release to press, repeating your telegram most immediate to Paris, Jerusalem, Rome and Washington. Account should include details of any casualties.

26/7

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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36

INWARD TELEGRAM

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 25th July, 1947.
R. 25th " " 22.50 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No. 1422 Secret.

(A) (Please pass to Paris as my No. 1056).

My telegram No. 1054 to Paris.

There is reason to believe that whatever the actual circumstances of the arrival and disembarkation may be, the local Press will endeavour to circulate most highly coloured and distorted accounts. Material which would enable me to issue an entirely factual official communique at the earliest possible moment would therefore be of prime importance in the maintenance of local security.

(B) (Copies sent to Foreign Office for transmission to Paris.)

Copies

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137

3

Copies sent to:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| No. 10 Downing Street | -- | P.S. to Prime Minister |
| Lord President | -- | Private Secretary |
| Admiralty | -- | Private Secretary |
| " | -- | First Sea Lord |
| " | -- | Mr. C.C.S. Dodds |
| War Office | -- | Private Secretary |
| " " | -- | C.I.G.S. |
| " " (M.O.4) | -- | Lt.Col. J.G. Atkinson |
| " " (M.I.3) | -- | Lt.Col. T. Gore |
| Air Ministry | -- | Private Secretary |
| " | -- | Chief of Air Staff |
| Cabinet Offices | -- | Sir H. Brook |
| " " | -- | Mr. P.L.G. Charlton |
| Foreign Office | -- | Private Secretary |
| " " | -- | Mr. C.W. Barber |
| " " | -- | Mr. Balch |
| Ministry of Defence | -- | Private Secretary |
| " " | -- | Sir Henry Hilleb Brit.Mi |
| " " | -- | Defence Secretary |
| M.I.5 | -- | Mr. T.A. Robertson |
| Min. of Transport | -- | Mr. W. Graham |
| Foreign Office (Research Dept.) | -- | Air Commodore E.O. Pugs |
| " " (Information Policy Dept.) | -- | Mr. Nemmo |
| Cabinet Offices | -- | Commander Eversha |

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371/61818

E

Secret

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No: 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO MARSEILLES

No: 95

26th July 1947 D. 5.55.p.m.26th July 1947

Repeated to Paris(Important) No: 1710
Rome No: 1628
Washington No: 7579
High Commissioner Palestine

X:X:X:

IMPORTANT

SECRET

"President Warfield".

Following is text of telegram No: 1056 from Palestine to His Majesty's Ambassador Paris.

2. Begins.

My telegram No: 1054 to Paris.

There is reason to believe that whatever the actual circumstances of the arrival and disembarkation may be, the local Press will endeavour to circulate most highly coloured and distorted accounts. Material which would enable me to issue an entirely factual official communique at the earliest possible moment would therefore be of prime importance in the maintenance of local security.

Ends.

2. [sic] In spite of precautions taken by French authorities, it seems inevitable that disembarkation will be reported and probably misrepresented by hostile journalists. As soon as possible after disembarkation, therefore, you should send, by most immediate en clair telegram, a brief, factual account suitable for release to Press, repeating your telegram most immediate to Paris, Jerusalem, Rome and Washington. Account should include details of any casualties.

Reference: FO 371/61818

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285 1947

Palestine
EASTERN

E 6651/G
24 JUL 1947
39

E 6651 /148/G
Sir N. Ronald
Lisbon.
458
July 23rd.

Suspect Shipping: Padreah & Northlands.

Addressed Ponta Delgada no 19.
States that Padreah & Northlands are expected to sail from Bayonne on July 23rd. or 24th

Last Paper.
E 6680

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)
S) L.I.P. 26 July

(Minutes.)

24/7

(Action completed.)
Jul 27

(Index.)
Wpk.

Next Paper.
E 6652

27437 F.O.P.

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E

L6661

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

40

FROM LISBON TO PONTA DELGADA NO. 19. (Foreign Office please pass).
OPORTO.
FUNCHAL.

Sir N. Ronald. D. 6.16 p.m. 23rd July 1947.

23rd July 1947. R. 9.20 p.m. 23rd July 1947.

Repeated to Foreign Office No. 458.

IMPORTANT. 0:0:0:0

My despatch No. 6. N.T.

Jewish illegal immigrants.

S.S. Paducah and Northlands (see page 3 of enclosure to my despatch under reference) are expected to sail from Bayonne for the Mediterranean on July 23rd or July 24th. Both ships have ample supplies of food and fuel and are unlikely to call at Portuguese ports. I should, however, be grateful for earliest information should they put in at any port in your Consular district.

[Repeated to Ponta Delgada].

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286 1947 31

EASTERN

E 6652/G

24 JUL 1947

41

E 6652/48/G

Madrid Chancery to E. Dept. 25/38/47 July 22nd.

Suspect Shipping: Paducah & Northlands.

Rep. to F.O. desp. 222 / E6082(48/G) Encloses copy of letter from San Sebastian concerning these vessels.

**Last Paper.**

E6651

**References.**

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) CO (Mr. Fitzgerald) MOS (Mr. Sellers) Cabinet Offices (Cdr. Loxsmith)

9) Paris no 1002.

10) Bordeaux no 51. July 29.

Dft) Consul San Sebastian from E Dept Aug 2

(Action completed.)

D.F" / 8

(Index.)

P&O. Dept.

**Next Paper.**

(Minutes.)

Copies to: C.O. - Mr. Fitzgerald
M.I.5 - Mr. Sellers
Cabinet Office - Cdr. Loxsmith

under P/a to: Paris
Bordeaux

and re-submit

24/7

Is this of any use to News Dept ?

30/7

I think some use can be made of this when you get the other information you are asking for.

(Thomas) 31/7
(P. Reynolds)

Letter to San Sebastian

31/7

Information Policy Dept. (see over)

28653 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61818

42

DH letter to Mr Stewart - BBC -

Rotterdam

6/8

Letter sent by Inf. Policy Dept. at request of Working Party. I have now sent a telegram to San Sebastian requesting for more information

8/8

Reminder to San Sebastian

6/9

Reminder cancelled - now see E 8277

9/9

8 comps)
Madrid Chancery
Paris
Con Gen Bordeaux
Mr Fitzgerald C.O
Mr Scherr MIS
Cdr Eversfield
Cab 67/1
Aug. 5.

Tel) Bilbao 14
8 Aug

R to Madrid 61 Sav
Paris 1075 Sav
Bordeaux
2 Sav

P) MIP

Sap) San Sebastian
from E Dept
Sap).

comps) Madrid
Bilbao
Sap)

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24 JUL 47 E

E6652 / G 43

BRITISH EMBASSY,
MADRID.

URGENT

22nd July, 1947.

275/38/47

#5 cpls

Dear Department,

Your despatch No. 222 (E 6082/48/G) of the 11th July about suspect shipping.

We enclose a copy of a letter (428 - 47 (S/3) ) of the 17th July from His Majesty's Consul at San Sebastian about the s.s. NORTHLAND and s.s. PADUCCA, which were recently in Bayonne.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

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44

COPY

428 - 47 (S/3)

BRITISH CONSULATE,

SAN SEBASTIAN.

17th July, 1947

SECRET

C.1

Copie

Dear Chancery,

We have to report that on one of our weekly visits to Biarritz we were given the following information:

It appears that about the middle of June two ships arrived at Bayonne, the s.s. "NORTHLAND" and the s.s. "PADUCCA" of about 1300 to 1500 tons, both flying the flag of Panama. The crews of these two ships are entirely composed of Jews, all English speaking the vast majority being in possession of American passports, but there are also apparently one or two with British passports. A great many members of the crew are staying at the Hotel Capagorri, which is one of the best hotels in Bayonne, and not at all the kind of place frequented by sailors. They make frequent trips to Paris with large suitcases and spend money freely. The Chief Officer of the NORTHLAND is an Italian.

A great many alterations are being carried out on board both ships, series of bunks being installed below, ostensibly for the purpose of carrying cargoes of fruit. Large quantities of food have been ordered, including 5 tons of biscuits.

It is stated that quantities of powder have been seen in suitcases in their bedrooms in the Hotel Capagorri.

We are enclosing a hotel registration card completed by one of the members of the crew, when in a very drunken condition he booked a room in a small hotel in Bayonne.

It appears that the ships will be ready to leave shortly.

We are sending copy of this letter to the Passport Control Officer, Madrid.

Yours ever,

CONSULATE.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
MADRID.

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**FRANÇAIS** Modèle 1

Département des BASSES-PYRÉNÉES

45

COMMUNE DE .....

5e/k

Hôte .....

Pension de famille .....

Maison privée .....

(Rayer la mention inutile)

Rue .....

Tenu par M. .....

Nom TOM PAINE
(en lettres capitales)

Prénoms .....

Date et lieu de naissance { July 13, 1941 .....

Profession : Ag. TATOR

Domicile habituel : LA MUNDO

Venant de ....., allant à .....

Objet du voyage (travail, santé, tourisme) Revolution

.....

Pièces d'identité { Passeport ou carte d'identité N° .....
Date de délivrance .....
Lieu de délivrance .....

Notionalité et date d'entrée en France { INTERNATIONAL .....

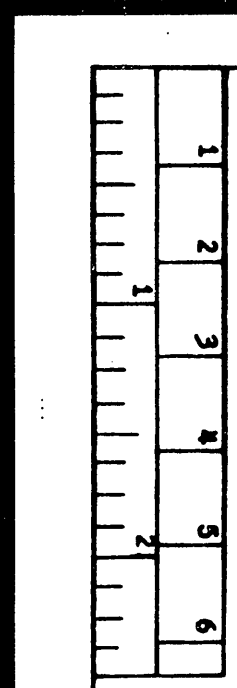
Nom et âge des enfants de moins de 15 ans { .....

Date : Juliet 13 1947 Signature : Tom Paine

NOTA.— La fiche est individuelle.

Les enfants de moins de 15 ans peuvent être portés sur cette fiche.

Papeterie, H. Sarthou.-Bayonne



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Reference: FO 371/61818

Registry
No. E 6652/48/G
T.E.C.

*Draft.*

H.M. Consulate
San Sebastian

from

Eastern Dept.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

copy:
Madrid (Chancery)
Paris "
Consulate-General
(Bordeaux)
C.O. (Mr. Fitzgerald)
M.I.5 (Mr. Liddell)
Admiralty Office
(Adm. Eversley)

August 2nd 46

OUT FILE + 7 cp/Se

Dear Consulate,

Madrid Chancery have sent us a copy of your letter no. 428-47 (S/3) of the 17th July about the "NORTHLANDS" and the "RADUCAH".

2. We should be grateful for any further information you can give us about these ships. In particular, we should like to know ~~what kind of "powder" was seen in the suit-cases of the crew. We~~ whether the "powder" seen in the suit-cases of the crew was gun-powder and, if so, whether the evidence is good enough for us to make use of this information.

Yours ever

Eastern Dept.

31/7

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Reference: FO 371/61818

47

(E 6652/43/G)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S. W. 1.

**OUT FILE**

2nd August, 1947.

Dear Consulate,

Madrid Chancery have sent us a copy of your letter No. 428-47(S/3) of the 17th July about the "Paducah" and the "Northlands".

2. We should be grateful for any further information you can give us about these ships. In particular, we should like to know whether the "powder" seen in the suit-cases of the crew was gun-powder and, if so, whether the evidence is good enough for us to make use of this information.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

British Consulate,
San Sebastian.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. E 6652/4

48

*Draft.*

Mr Stewart
BBC
Bush House.

I enclose a copy of the hotel registration card filled in by a member of the crew of either the 'Northlands' or the 'Padncah' in a small hotel near Bayonne, about which we spoke.

I believe that you already know about the two ships themselves and this incidental piece of information may come up usefully the next time either is in the news. The words 'Agitation' and 'Revolution' are suitably far removed from any sentimental concepts which may be held about Jewish illegal immigration.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

49

FOREIGN OFFICE,

Information Policy Department,

E.6652/G. 17, Carlton House Terrace,

S.W.1.

7th August, 1947.

I enclose a copy of the hotel registration card filled in by a member of the crew of either the "Northlands" or the "Paducca" in a small hotel near Bayonne, about which we spoke.

I believe that you already know about the two ships themselves and this incidental piece of information may come up usefully the next time either is in the news. The words "Agitator" and "Revolution" are suitably far removed from any sentimental concepts which may be held about Jewish Illegal Immigration.

(R. A. Henderson).

D. W. Stewart, Esq.,
The British Broadcasting Cpn.,
Bush House,
Aldwych,
LONDON, W.C.2.

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Reference: FO 371/51818

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3/49 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry No. EB692/48/G

J.E.C.

~~Top Secret~~.
~~Secret~~.
Confidential.
~~Restricted~~.
~~Open~~.

*Draft.*

BILBAO

*Telegram.*
*No.* 14
*(Date)* Aug 8th.
*Repeat to :—*

Madrid } No 6 Saving.
Paris } No 1575 Saving.
Bordeaux } No 2 Saving.

~~*En Clair.*~~
~~*Code.*~~
*Cypher.*

*Distribution :—*

Departmental No. 1

*Copies to :—*

I.I.P.

50

*F.O.,*

9/8 1947.

*Despatched* 10.40 a *M.*

Confidential

Please pass following by safe hand to H.M. Consul at SAN SEBASTIAN.

Begins. Your letter no. 428-47 (S/3) of 17th July to Madrid Embassy (about "NORTHLANDS" and "PADUCAH". [Jewish illegal immigration].

2. We should like any more information you can give about these ships. In particular, please report whether the "powder" mentioned in your letter was gun-powder /and

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Reference:- FO 371/61818

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51 and, if not, whether the
enclosed is among such
for us under one of
this information. Encls.

8/3

Green 52

E 6652/48/G

Confidential

Cypher/OTP DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO BILBAO

No.14 D.10.40 a.m. 9th August, 1947

8th August, 1947.

Repeated to Madrid No.61 Saving
Paris No.1575 Saving
Bordeaux No.2 Saving

.....

CONFIDENTIAL

Please pass following by safe hand to His Majesty's Consul San Sebastian.

[Begins].

Your letter No.428-47 (S/S) of 17th July to Madrid Chancery about "Northlands" and "Paducah". [Jewish illegal immigration].

2. We should like any more information you can give about these ships. In particular, please report whether the "powder" mentioned in your letter was gunpowder and, if so, whether the evidence is strong enough for us to make use of this information.

[Ends].

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Reference: FO 371/61818

1947

Palestine

EASTERN

E 6689/G

25 JUN 1947

53

284

E 6689/48/G

The Duff Cooper

Paris

1442

July 24th.

S.S. President Warfield.

Rep. to his tel. 934 (E 6643/48 G)
No measures should be taken to oblige the immigrants to land, but preparations are being made to feed and care for them.

**Last Paper.**

E 6554 (E6650)

**References.**

(*Minutes.*)

Telegram sent by Admiralty

26/7

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

9) C.P. 26 July

(Action completed.)

25-26/7

(Index.)

W.K.

**Next Paper.**

(E6690)

27437 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

E E6889

54

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.2.

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper
No. 742

D. 1.52 p.m. 24th July 1947
R. 3.15 p.m. 24th July 1947

24th July 1947
Repeated to Jerusalem

c c c c c c

MOST IMMEDIATE
SECRET
LIGHT

My telegram No. 734 "President Warfield".

As reported by telephone, Council of Ministers decided that British ships carrying passengers of "President Warfield" would be admitted to a French port, that no measures will be taken to oblige them to land but preparations will be made to feed and care for them if they do land. On disembarkation they will be free.

2. It seems to me essential that no communication should be allowed between Jews on board and the outside world. I beg therefore that every possible precaution will be taken to this end and we shall endeavour to secure French co-operation.

3. We are hoping to meet representatives of French Ministries concerned this evening, to concert practical measures on arrival of ships which we understand should occur early on 28th July. French indicate that they are now likely to designate Sete or Port Vendres for the purpose but this should be regarded as secret for the present in order to obviate as far as possible assembly of large numbers of Jewish sympathisers and pressmen.

Foreign Office please pass Jerusalem Immediate.

[Copies sent to Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem]

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Reference: FO 371/61818

1947

Palestine
EASTERN

E 6690 /G
25 JUN 1947

288

E 6690 /48/G

Mr. Howard
Madrid
463
July 22nd

S.S. President Warfield.
Rep. to FO. tel 1634 (E 6698/48/G)
Madrid press have published
factual agency messages.

**Last Paper.**
(E 6688)

**References.**

(*Minutes.*)
Information Policy Dept. RAC 29/7
26/7

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)
S/11P 26 July

(Action completed.)
25 30/7

(Index.)

**Next Paper.**
E 6697
(E 6698)

27437 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

E

E6690

56

Code R

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2

FROM MADRID TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Howard
No. 463

D. 11.08 a.m. 22nd July 1947.

22nd July 1947.

R. 2.50 p.m. 22nd July 1947.

rrrrrr

E6448/48/9

Your telegram No. 1634 to Paris about "President Warfield".

Spanish press have published factual agency messages but so far there has been no editorial comment or interest.

25 JUL 1947
SENT TO DEPT.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

E6694/G

25 JUN 1947

1947

Palestine

EASTERN

289 31 57

E 6694/48/G

Bordeaux

44

July 24th.

Suspect Ships in French Ports.

Rep. to DO tel 13 (E 6689/48/G) the two ships which will not receive certificates of seaworthiness to carry passengers are to sail on July 29th. & 30th.

Last Paper.
E6690

References.

(Minutes.)

Telegram sent to Panama and Tegucigalpa requesting withdrawal of any registration which may exist.

25/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) 11 P. 26 July
To) Panama 85
Tegucigalpa 23
25 July
RPTD Paris 461
Bordeaux 13
26 July
8) 11P

(Action completed.)

25 7/47

(Index.)

WH.

Next Paper.
(E6783)
E6698

27437 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

E

Green

E6699

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

58

FROM BORDEAUX TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Nairn. D. 9.55 p.m. 24th July, 1947.
No. 44.
24th July, 1947. R. 12.45 a.m. 25th July, 1947.

3 3 3

IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

E6489/49/G

Your telegram No. 15.

The two ships in question were to-day informed by the French authorities that they would not be given certificates of sea-worthiness to carry passengers. They are now expected to sail on July 29th or July 30th.

2. Each vessel has a Honduranean as well as a Panamanian flag and will most likely fly the former.

3. Each vessel has a "crew" of about 55 men which is about three times the number required.

4. Foreign Office repeat to Paris, Lisbon, Madrid and Flag Officer Gibraltar.

[Repeated to Paris, Lisbon and Madrid].

[Copies sent to War Registry, Admiralty for repetition to Flag Officer Gibraltar].

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

45 [illegible]

[illegible] DEPT.

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Registry
No. E

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Secret.
~~Confidential.~~
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

*Draft.*

PANAMA No. 85
TEGUCIGALPA No. 22

*Telegram.*

*No.*.....

*(Date)*.....

*Repeat to ;—*

PARIS No. 1461 Saving
BORDEAUX No. 14.

~~*En Clair.*~~
~~*Coda*~~
*Cypher.*

*Distribution :—*

Departmental No. 1

*Copies to :—*

I.I.P.

59

*F. O.,*

25 7 1947.

*Despatched* 4 45 P *M.*

IMMEDIATE
SECRET,

Jewish illegal immigration.

2. ships very strongly suspected of complicity in this ~~illegal~~ traffic are expected to sail from BAYONNE (France) on 29th or 30th July. These are "PADUCAH", ex-coastguard cutter of 252 tons net and "NORTHLANDS", ex-coastguard cutter of 320 tons net.

2. Both ships claim HONDURANEAN as well as PANAMANIAN registry, though PANAMANIAN registry of "NORTHLANDS" is officially denied (PANAMA telegram no. 66 refers). Both ships have no fixed flag of PANAMA.

3. Please enquire from Govt. to which you are accredited whether either of these ships is in fact entitled to fly their flag. If so, please request them to withdraw registration and to inform

/

3148 Wt. 26469/137 50m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

60 inform their representatives in Paris of this withdrawal.

4. I attach great importance to this request since, if it can be shown that ships possess no nationality, French authorities may be induced to detain them in port.

5. Both ships have 80 life provisions and 500 life-saving appliances on board and "NORTHLANDS" is owned by same firm as "TRADE WINDS" and "PRESIDENT WARFIELD", both of which reached PALESTINE with illegal immigrants.

AB/7

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61

Green

E 6691/48/G

Secret

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PANAMA NO.85

TEGUCIGALPA NO.23

25th July 1947 D. 4.45 p.m. 25th July 1947

Repeated to Paris No. 1461 ) Saving
Bordeaux No. 15

c c c c c c

IMMEDIATE
SECRET

Jewish illegal immigration.

Two ships very strongly suspected of complicity in this traffic are expected to sail from Bayonne (France) on 29th or 30th July. These are "Paducah", ex-coastguard cutter of 252 tons net and "Northlands", ex-coastguard cutter of 320 tons net.

2. Both ships claim Honduranean as well as Panamanian registry, though Panamanian registry of "Northlands" is officially denied (Panama telegram No. 66 refers). Both ships have so far flown flag of Panama.

3. Please enquire from Governments to which you are accredited whether either of these ships is in fact entitled to fly their flag. If so, please request them to withdraw registration and to inform their representatives in Paris of this withdrawal.

4. I attach great importance to this request since, if it can be shown that ships possess no nationality, French authorities may be induced to detain them in port.

5. Both ships have 80 tons provisions and 500 life-saving appliances on board and "Northlands" is owned by same firm as "Trade Winds" and "President Warfield", both of which reached Palestine with illegal immigrants.

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1917

290

Palestine

EASTERN

E6698/G

21 JUN 1917 62

E 6698/148/G

S.S. President Warfield

Paris

743

July 24th

Warns of an unpleasant incident which might arise in connexion with the disembarkation of the refugees.

**Last Paper.**

(E6690) E6697

**References.**

(Minutes.)

Please see separate minute

25/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) I.I.P. July 26.

Tel) Paris 1701. July 25.

8) H.P. July 30.

(Action completed.)

25/7

(Index.)

**Next Paper.**

E6699 (E6711)

27437 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

" President Warfield. "

On the 11th July the S.S. " President Warfield " left the French harbour of Cette in Southern France carrying 4,500 Jewish passengers who intended to enter Palestine illegally. The passengers had been given clearance by the French authorities on the strength of a document presented by a Jewish organisation and alleged to have come from the Colombian Consulate General in Marseilles. This document, now known to have been a forgery, stated that the 4,500 Jews would be given visas for Colombia.

2. Unlike the passengers, the ship itself was not cleared by the French authorities, who in fact attempted to prevent its departure on the ground that its navigation certificate was valid only for voyages in fine weather and without passengers. The " President Warfield " nevertheless slipped away under cover of darkness. In Paris on the 12th July, the Secretary of State protested to M.Bidault against the failure of the French authorities to prevent the departure of the ship, and obtained his verbal agreement to the return of the passengers to France. The Embassy were subsequently informed that M.Bidault's assurance could not be regarded as a decision of the French Government until it had been confirmed by the Prime Minister. This confirmation was received on the 18th July, and attempts were then made to concert with the French the arrangements for the disembarkation of the 4,500 Jews, who are now on their way back to France on board three British transports under Naval escort.

3. It appears that the Socialist Ministers in the French Cabinet are unhappy about the decision to permit the return of these illegal immigrants, and it was announced after a Cabinet meeting on July 23rd that, although they would be allowed to land in France, no force would be used to compel them to do so. This means that, if the passengers resist disembarkation, we cannot expect co-operation on shore with the efforts of the British troops to get them off the ships.

4. It is reported in the Press that the Jewish Agency are sending representatives to Southern France [the port of arrival is not being disclosed] to instruct the passengers to refuse to land. Journalists are gathering on the South Coast of France, and there is no doubt that the maximum publicity will be given to the arrival of the 3 Transports. It is now expected that they will arrive early on Tuesday.

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5. Mr. Evans was consulted yesterday on our legal position in the event of a French refusal to co-operate in the disembarkation. His advice is that we should now inform the French that we propose, if necessary, to use force to effect the disembarkation of the passengers. If the French raise objections to this, we should then point out that they have agreed to the return of these passengers to France, and that the return is not complete until they are actually on French soil. A telegram to Paris on these lines has been authorised by the Secretary of State, and sent.

6. Paris telegram No. 747 reports the arrangements provisionally proposed by the French authorities for the reception of the " President Warfield's " passengers at Port de Bouc at approximately 4 a.m. on Tuesday morning. These proposals are being submitted to M. Ramadier for his approval to-day. It is proposed that the three ships carrying these passengers should anchor outside the harbour and that their passengers should be disembarked on to tugs. These tugs will then take them to a cordoned off quay. This proposal at first sight appears very satisfactory, although the War Office and Admiralty have not yet had an opportunity to comment fully. The view previously expressed by representatives of these Departments has been that forcible disembarkation of the passengers could probably be accomplished without serious incident and that the real danger lay in the possibility of those who had already landed on the quay rushing the gangways en masse. The proposal to disembark them into tugs might well avoid this danger.

(C.E. CABLE)

July 25th, 1947.

25/7

Midnight

25 7

Seen

Sir O Sargent.

Sec.

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E

Green

E6698

CYPHER/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

65

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper.
No. 743.
24th July, 1947.

D: 8.07 p.m. 24th July, 1947.
R: 9.25 p.m. 24th July, 1947.

@@@ @@@ @@@

IMMEDIATE
SECRET
LIGHT

President Warfield.

I feel it my duty to sound a note of warning as to the very unpleasant incident that may arise in connexion with the disembarkation of the refugees, if they refuse to leave the ships. The forcible carrying ashore of 4,500 people of all ages and both sexes will not only be a very severe strain on the endurance of those charged with the task but will also afford a most unedifying spectacle of which full advantage will doubtless be taken by journalists and photographers. These difficulties will be greatly increased if instead of co-operation we meet with hostility from the local authorities. They might even refuse permission for soldiers or members of the ships company to go ashore. British soldiers and sailors may thus be exposed not only to charges of brutality but also to ridicule.

2. Therefore it is for consideration whether an alternative policy might be adopted. The refugees might be informed on arrival that the French Government has offered them freedom and hospitality. They can either accept this offer and go ashore or refuse it and remain on board. In the latter case the ships will put to sea again. No information can be given of their destination nor any hopes held out of the passengers (who have been guilty of sailing with false documents and of offering violent resistence to officers of the law) ever reaching Palestine or even of being set at liberty.

3. I assume that our right forcibly to land prisoners on foreign territory has been carefully considered from the point of view of international law.

25 JUL 1947

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Registry
No. E 6698/48/G

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential
Restricted.
Open.

H. B.

*Draft.*

H. M. Ambassador,
Paris.

*Telegram.*

No. 1701

(Date) July 25th

*Repeat to :—*

Mr. Evans concurs.

25/7 743. 25/7

Ex Clair.
Codex
*Cypher.* 25/7

*Distribution :—*

Departmental No. 2

*Copies to :—*

I. I. P.

F.O.,

July 1947.

*Despatched* 1.30 p.m. 25/7

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Your telegram No. 743 [of 24th July: "President Warfield"].

I fully appreciate your anxiety, but I do not think the course of action suggested in your paragraph 2 is practicable. If the transports were to leave France with some of their passengers still on board, they would have to land them in Cyprus. There is no alternative destination. To carry these illegal immigrants to Cyprus after all would certainly expose us to ridicule. It would also amount to acknowledging defeat in our attempt to assert the doctrine of refoulement and would be a disastrous setback in our campaign against the traffic in illegal immigrants.

2. Your paragraph 3. The Assistant Legal Adviser recommends that you should now inform the French that we have always realised that force might be necessary to land the passengers on arrival and that we are prepared to use it. We assume that, as the French agreed to the return of these illegal immigrants, they would have no objection to their landing under compulsion if necessary. If the French object, he suggests that we should point out that our

right/

DO NOT WRITE ANYTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(13556) Wt. 43697-140 100m 3/47 G.S.St. Gp 620

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right to use compulsion to effect the landing of these persons is implicit in our right to return them to France as the country from which they embarked for Palestine. Moreover, French consent to the return would in effect be rendered nugatory if the operation could not be completed owing to the refusal of the passengers to land.

3. Please take action in this sense.

E. M.

DO NOT WRITE OR STICK ANYTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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E.

CYPHER/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No. 1,701.

D: 9.00 p.m. 25th July, 1947.

25th July, 1947.

@@@ @@@ @@@

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Your telegram No. 743 [of 24th July: "President Warfield"].

I fully appreciate your anxiety, but I do not think the course of action suggested in your paragraph 2 is practicable. If the transports were to leave France with some of their passengers still on board, they would have to land them in Cyprus. There is no alternative destination. To carry these illegal immigrants to Cyprus after all would certainly expose us to ridicule. It would also amount to acknowledging defeat in our attempt to assert the doctrine of refoulement and would be a disastrous setback in our campaign against the traffic in illegal immigrants.

2. Your paragraph 3. The Assistant Legal Adviser recommends that you should now inform the French that we have always realised that force might be necessary to land the passengers on arrival and that we are prepared to use it. We assume that, as the French agreed to the return of these illegal immigrants, they would have no objection to their landing under compulsion if necessary. If the French object, he suggests that we should point out that our right to use compulsion to effect the landing of these persons is implicit in our right to return them to France as the country from which they embarked for Palestine. Moreover, French consent to the return would in effect be rendered nugatory if the operation could not be completed owing to the refusal of the passengers to land.

3. Please take action in this sense.

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291 1947

Palestine

EASTERN

E6699/G

25 JUN 1947

69

E 6699 | 481/G

C.O.

Comnd.

Rcd. July 25th

~~Suspect Shipping~~ S.S. Empire Lifeguard

Comnds. copy of tel. no 1398 from Palestine of July 23rd. discussing safety of the remaining ships.

(Minutes.)

Last Paper.

E6698

References.

Also within

1) Cyprus tel no 389 of July 23rd.

25/7

(Print.)

2. Palestine tel 1398 23 July.

(How disposed of.)

Please note which. The Empire Lifeguard is not a suspect ship, but a vessel chartered by the Ministry of Transport to carry illegal immigrants from Haifa to Cyprus.

H.B. 26/8

(Action completed.)

25/7

(Index.)

Next Paper.

E6700

28653 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

E6699

Enter 70

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 23rd July, 1947.
R. 23rd " " 14.30 hrs.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

No. 1395. Secret.

Addressed to the Governor of Cyprus No. 145.
Repeated to the S. of S.

EMPIRE LIFEGUARD was sunk alongside in Haifa harbour this morning by an arsenal explosion. Believed no loss of life. It is thought that the charge was placed on board while the ship was loading immigrants in Famagusta.

2. In order to ensure safety of remaining (?ships), Commodore Palestine has represented urgently that immigrants still aboard transports in Cyprus should be disembarked there and that ships be thoroughly searched and then brought back to Haifa empty as soon as reasonably possible. This course would entail corresponding delay in departure of the remainder of the monthly quota from Cyprus. How long this delay would continue would depend on the security situation and also the future illegal immigration into Palestine, both of which factors are at present difficult to assess.

3. I appreciate that such a delay in shipping the monthly quota would cause you some embarrassment and I must regret having to add to your difficulties. I feel, however, and G.O.C. agrees, that safety of the remaining ships is of such paramount importance that Commodore's wishes must be met. I trust, therefore, that you will feel able to agree, if so I will inform the Commodore accordingly.

4. Grateful for reply by immediate telegram.

/Copies sent to...

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71

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| Admiralty | - Private Secretary. |
| " | - First Sea Lord. |
| " | - Mr. C.C.B. Dodds. |
| War Office | - Private Secretary. |
| " " | - C.I.G.S. |
| " " (M.O.4.) | - Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson. |
| " " (M.I.3.) | - Lt. Col. W. Gore. |
| Air Ministry | - Private Secretary. |
| " " | - Chief of Air Staff. |
| Cabinet Offices | - Sir N. Brook. |
| " " | - Mr. T.A.G. Charlton. |
| Foreign Office | - Private Secretary. |
| " " | - Mr. C.W. Baxter. |
| " " | - Mr. Beith. |
| Ministry of Defence | - Private Secretary. |
| " " " | - Sir Henry Wilson Smith. |
| " " " | - Defence Registry. |
| M.I.3. | - Mr. T.A. Robertson. |
| Ministry of Transport | - Mr. W. Graham, M.B.E. |
| Foreign Office (Research Dept.) | - Air Commodore K.C. Buss. |
| " " (Information Policy Dept.) | - Mr. Rennie. |
| Cabinet Offices | - Commander Evershed. |

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E 6699 G

f.m. 72

INWARD TELEGRAM

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM CYPRUS (Lord Winster)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 23rd July, 1947.
R. 23rd " " 20.20 hrs.

---

MOST IMMEDIATE
No. 389 Secret.

Addressed to High Commissioner for Palestine No.355.
Repeated to S. of S.

Your secret telegram No. 145 repeated to Secretary of State No. 1395.

Illegal Immigrants.

I agree and action is already proceeding accordingly.

/Copies

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73

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| Admiralty | | Private Secretary. |
| " | | First Sea Lord. |
| " | | Mr. G.C.B. Dodds. |
| War Office | | Private Secretary. |
| " " | | C.I.G.S. |
| " " | (M.O.4) | Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson. |
| " " | (M.I.3) | Lt. Col. W. Gore. |
| Air Ministry | | Private Secretary. |
| " " | | Chief of Air Staff. |
| Cabinet Offices | | Sir N. Brook. |
| " " | | Mr. T.A.G. Charlton. |
| " " | | Commander Evershed. |
| Foreign Office | | Private Secretary. |
| " " | | Mr. C.W. Baxter. |
| " " | | Mr. Beith. |
| Ministry of Defence | | Private Secretary. |
| " " " | | Sir Henry Wilson Smith. |
| " " " | | Defence Registry. |
| M.I.5 | | Mr. T.A. Robertson. |
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f.v.74

E6699 G

29 JUL [illegible] INWARD TELEGRAM

Code

FROM PALESTINE (Gen.Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES

D. 23rd July, 1947
R. 23rd " " 16.30 hrs.

---

IMMEDIATE.

No.1397

Addressed to the S. of S.
Repeated to Cyprus No.146.

Following for Trafford-Smith. Begins.

Ex Corvette transport EMPIRE LIFE GUARD was sunk by internal explosion in Haifa harbour this morning while disembarking monthly quota of legalised Jewish immigrants ex Cyprus. No casualties.

2. Believe Charge was placed on board at Famagusta. Ends.

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292 1947

Palestine

EASTERN

E 6400/G

25 JUN 1947 76

E 6400/48/G 31

C.O. Cmmd

Recd. July 25th.

Illegal Immigrant Ships.

Immed. copy of tel. no 1382 of 21st July from Palestine asking where immigrants from ships bound for Palestine are to be taken.

**Last Paper.**

E6699

**References.**

(Minutes.)

Also within:

1) Palestine tel to CO no 1390 of 22/7 attach replies 25/7

2) Palestine tel to C.O. no 1641. 24/7.

3. Palestine tel 1425 already

4. To Palestine 1680 already.

5. Palestine 1441 28 July

6. To Palestine 174 Saw 6 Aug 9/8

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

| (Action completed.) | (Index.) |
|---|---|
| 25/8 | ✓ |

**Next Paper.**

E6701

28653 F.O.P.

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E

# INWARD TELEGRAM

36
77

E6/0C

AMENDED COPY (*Amendment underlined)
~~Cypher~~ (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 21st July, 1947.
R. 21st " " 21.45 hrs.

---

MOST IMMEDIATE

No.1382 Top Secret.

Illegal Jewish immigration.

1. I think you should know that the Navy most likely intercepted two more ships apparently bound for Palestine with illegal immigrants. These may be expected to arrive within the next few days.

2. I should be glad to know whether immigrants from these ships are to be taken to Cyprus or whether they are to be sent elsewhere. You will appreciate my present available lift is 1,600 in corvettes which are unsuitable for journeys longer than to Cyprus.

3. As the matter is urgent, I should be glad to receive your decision by noon Thursday *24th July at latest.

* Correction received 22.7.47.

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E

# INWARD TELEGRAM

7

79

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Cypher

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 22nd July, 1947.
R. 22nd " " 20.30 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 1390 Top Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean
No. 1027 (please pass to P.S.T.O. No. 1029)
" to Commander-in-Chief, M.E.L.F. No. 1028.

Your telegram No. 1600.

PRESIDENT WARFIELD.

Now that principle of refoulement has been accepted in the case of this ship I consider it essential in order to follow up this blow to illegal immigration, to enforce it in the case of future immigrant ships also, wherever evidence of port of embarkation can be established.

2. In regard to the two ships mentioned in my telegram No. 1382 the ports of embarkation have not yet been established and therefore I may have to send immigrants to Cyprus in the normal way; for this purpose I have the four corvettes. These however are unsuitable for voyages of over 24 hours, and unless therefore other shipping can be provided, even if ports of embarkation are established, I will still have to send immigrants to Cyprus which is regrettable.

3./

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40

3. If however principle of refoulement is to be adopted, additional transports, capable of long voyages, will be required. There is no guarantee that rate of illegal immigration will diminish during the coming months; indeed, it may increase. In the case of the WARFIELD the three large transports are likely to be away from Palestine for some 20 days. It would be highly undesirable (even if it were possible, which it is not) to hold in Palestine large numbers of illegal immigrants awaiting return to ports of embarkation, and I regard it as essential that sufficient lifts to take them back immediately should always be available.

4. I shall be glad therefore if arrangements may be put in hand immediately for provision of not less than two additional transports with a passenger capacity of 1,500 to 1,800 each. Failing such provision, the scheme of refoulement may break down.

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM. ~~MOST~~ SECRET

Top.

28

E6700 G 82

76021/47

Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 24th July, 1947. 13.00 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 1641 Top Secret.

Addressed to High Commissioner, Palestine.
Repeated to Governor, Cyprus No. 36%.
" Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.
" Commander-in-Chief, M.E.L.F.

My telegram No. 1630.

Illegal Immigration.

No doubt you have considered handling of publicity with regard to disposal of illegal immigrants on board two ships expected shortly. I am sure that you will agree that it is most undesirable to admit that they are not being returned to country of embarkation owing to lack of sufficient overt evidence on which to base representations to Foreign Governments.

2. I find it difficult to suggest a convincing line to take in public explanation of failure to follow precedent established in case of "PRESIDENT WARFIELD". If pressed on this issue perhaps the least unsatisfactory position to adopt might be that, though standing firmly by right of "refoulement", Government declines on security grounds to give its reasons for the disposal of illegal immigrants in particular cases.

3. I would be grateful for your observations.

(Copies sent to Admiralty and War Office for transmission to Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean and M.E.L.F.)

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| " " (M.I.3.) | - | Lt.Col. Gore. |
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**INWARD TELEGRAM** E6700/G/37

84

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Cypher

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 25th July, 1947.
R. 25th " " 22.50 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 1425 Top Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to Governor Cyprus No. 147.
" " Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean No. 1056.
" " Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Land Forces No. 1059.

Your telegram No. 1641.

Illegal Immigration.

I agree with *(corrupt group) (? reply) lines you suggest, except that I should propose adding after "refoulement" the words "which will be carried out in suitable cases".

*Correction being obtained.

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E

# OUTWARD TELEGRAM

37 87

Enter

E6700 G

76021/47 Pt.2.

Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 29th July, 1947. 12.15 hrs.

No. 1680 Top Secret.

Addressed to High Commissioner, Jerusalem No. 1680.
Repeated to Governor, Cyprus No. 380.
" " Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.
" " " " M.E.L.F.
" " P.S.T.O. Mediterranean.

Your telegram No. 1390. E6700/48/9

Transports for illegal immigrants.

I agree that it is most important to follow up the action taken in the case of the "PRESIDENT WARFIELD" by endeavouring to apply principle of "refoulement" equally to further arrivals when satisfactory evidence regarding port of embarkation is available.

2. We may expect however that after the experience of the "PRESIDENT WARFIELD" French and other Governments will henceforward take more care to prevent overt embarkations. Most ships arriving in future are likely therefore to have arranged clandestine embarkations (like BRUNA and LUCIANO). It has not so far been possible to establish sufficient overt evidence of clandestine embarkation on which to base representations to foreign governments in such cases and, although every effort will continue to be made to obtain it, extent to which His Majesty's ships can be diverted for this purpose from other duties to shadow suspect ships must vary.

3./

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3. Furthermore, although there is no guarantee that rate of immigration will diminish, there is reason to believe that our counter-measures are having some effect. Total capacity of strongly suspect ships that now appear to be in a position to sail within the next two months is not much greater than that of the "PRESIDENT WARFIELD", and we hope by diplomatic and other pressure to reduce still further the number of ships available.

4. On basis of existing information it is unlikely that the number of ships arriving from proved ports of embarkation will exceed three in any one period of three weeks. This rate of arrival should not exceed capacity of three fitted transports now at your disposal for "refoulement". For this reason, to which must be added the acute shortage of shipping in United Kingdom and the fact that 6 weeks at least would be required to convert any new ships made available, there does not appear to be sufficient justification at present for pressing for allocation of additional shipping for this purpose.

(Copies sent to Admiralty and War Office for onward transmission)

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E E4700 MW 89

8 AUG 1947

INWARD TELEGRAM

Code

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 28th July, 1947.
R. 28th " " 19.45 hrs.

No. 1441

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to Cyprus, No. 149.
" " Paris, No. 1074.
" " Rome, No. 1075.

At 05.04 hrs. illegal immigrant ship LUCIANO was brought into Haifa by the Navy. No opposition to boarding. Transhipment into transports completed by 06.45 hours without incident. Number of illegal immigrants aboard 398, of whom 374 placed on transport, 7 admitted to hospital and a further 17 landed in Palestine. Passengers largely Sephardic Jews believed to be ex North Africa. No crew identified.

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6700/48/9

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PRIORITY

SAVING

From the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the High Commissioner for PALESTINE.

Date 6th August, 1947.

No.174 Saving Top Secret.

My telegram No.1641 Top Secret and your telegram No.1425 Top Secret.

Illegal Immigration.

Report from "Manchester Guardian" correspondent datelined Jerusalem July 27th regarding the destination of illegal immigrants on board "BRUNA" and "LUCIANO" states:

> "Because it is not known for certain from whence the ships came, because of transport difficulties, and because the country of embarkation, if known, probably would not be as willing to receive them as France was, the routine transhipment to Cyprus is being resumed".

This account of the reasons for not sending these people to Cyprus may, of course, be merely intelligent deduction. Public Relations Officers here have been instructed not to enter into discussion of reasons for sending or not sending illegal immigrants to Cyprus and I have no doubt from your telegram under reference that your officers have received similar instructions. I need scarcely emphasise the importance of refraining from official comment.

SECKR.

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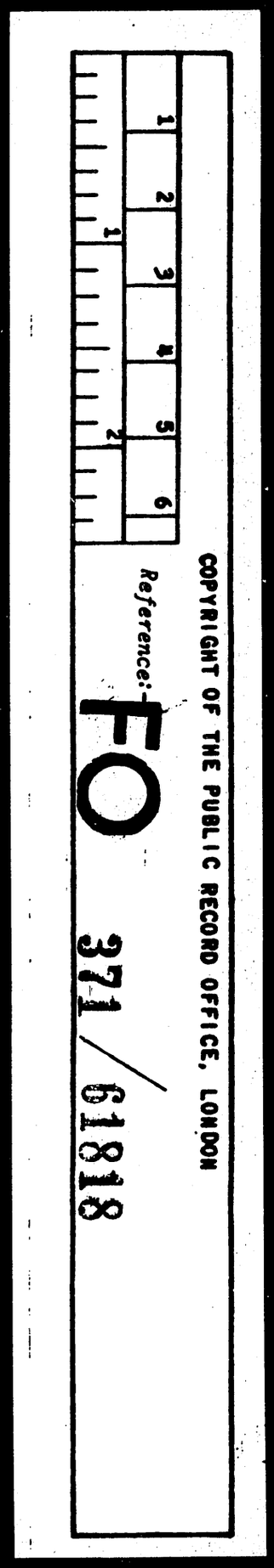
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Palestine
EASTERN

E 6911/G
25 JUN 1947
93

294 1947

E 6911 /48/G

Paris
176 Saving
July 22nd.

S.S. President Warfield.

Addressed Marseilles as 41.
Gives brief history of the case, and forwards instructions to be followed in the event of disembarkation taking place in that district.

(Minutes.)

These instructions have now been superseded by those contained in Paris Telegram no. 7514, as amended by our Telegram to Paris no. 1712 and our Telegram to Marseilles no. 47. Please see E.

29/7

Last Paper.
E 6911
(E6698)

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)
8) I.I.P. 26 July

(Action completed.)
25 JUL 47

(Index.)

Next Paper.
(E6912)

27437 F.O.P.

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94

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

FROM PARIS TO MARSEILLES

Mr. Duff Cooper R. 10. 40 a.m. 25th July, 1947.
No. 71.
22nd July, 1947.
REPEATED TO FOREIGN OFFICE No. 176 SAVING

11111

IMMEDIATE

TOP SECRET

Illegal Jewish immigration.

When in Paris Mr. Bevin received verbal undertaking from M. Bidault to take back into France the passengers carried by the "President Warfield".

2. Accordingly after transhipment the three vessels indicated below sailed from Haifa 0600 hours 19th July with the following illegal Jewish immigrants on board.

Ocean Vigour. 657 males. 558 females. 259 children. Plus 10 males and 10 females stretcher cases.
Runnymede Park. 546 males. 443 females. 405 children. Plus 15 females stretcher cases.
Empire Rival. 629 males. 601 females. 291 children. Plus 5 female stretcher cases.
Grand total sailed 4,429.

62 of the Warfield's 4,493 passengers were left in hospital at Haifa together with three dead.

3. For your information French Government hoped that Jews should eventually be sent on to Colombia, for which country they possessed entry visas allegedly granted by Colombian Consul Marseilles. Colombian Embassy have, however, now informed French Government officially that visas were forged and that Colombian Government will not accept the immigrants. In any case our immediate concern is to see the Jews landed in France and we have made all reservations as to what help if any we may subsequently give to the French to dispose of them later. Séte has been mentioned as possible port but final decision has not yet been reached and this should be treated as confidential. Transports are expected to arrive South France soon after this weekend.

4. If disembarkation takes place in your district, you or a member of your staff should together with Military Attaché (who will come down for the purpose) be present at port to ensure smooth execution of arrangements. You should both meet the senior British army officer with transports before disembarkation at the French port is attempted and should settle with him and with French officials all details. It is probable that the immigrants may show a strong disinclination to co-operate and that the use of considerable physical force at time involving the bodily lifting of individuals for transhipment may be unavoidable.

5.

Reference: FO 371/61818
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5. It is clearly preferable as a general principle that troops accompanying the immigrants should not land on French soil or even on lighters in French port. But provided principle is borne in mind final arrangements must be left to you and French officials at the Port. French will probably provide a warship to escort transports, probably one by one, from limit of territorial waters into port.

6. The details of the transports are as follows:

"Runneymede Park" length 425 feet, beam 57 feet, maximum draught 19 feet.

"Ocean Vigour" length 442 feet, beam 57 feet, maximum draught 19 feet.

"Empire Rival" length 446 feet, beam 56 feet, maximum draught 19 feet.

They are escorted by a cruiser and a sloop.

7. In view of the absence of cypher communications with Nice, His Majesty's Consul General being on leave, it may be necessary, if disembarkation occurs in Nice area, for you to send someone over to explain situation and supervise arrangements.

8. Meanwhile, no action on your part with French authorities is necessary pending further instructions which will be sent as soon as French Government have confirmed that they will allow immigrants to land.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

E 6112/G
25 JUN 1947

1947

215 31

E 6446/48/G

Paris
1st Secret
July 22nd.

S.S. President Warfield.

Rep. to F.O. tel. 6114 E 6446/48/G)
Repeats assurance of shipping authorities, but explains how vessel got away

96

Last Paper.
(E 6411)

References.

(Minutes.)

Please see also E 6446

Near East Dept. 28/7
Information Policy Dept. Rate 26/7

26/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

DF 30/7

(Index.)

Next Paper.
(E 6713)

27437 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

En Clair
(by bag)

DEPARTMENTAL No. 2

97

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper
No. 177 Saving

22nd July 1947. R. 10.20 a.m. 24th July 1947.

CONFIDENTIAL rrrrrr

Your telegram No. 1649.

President Warfield.

Assurance reported in my telegram No. 72 to Marseilles was received on evening of July 10th. At noon on following day, Consulate General at Marseilles reported by telephone that shipping authorities had refused clearance and pilots, and had placed a body of men in the dock to prevent vessel casting off. Nevertheless, under cover of night crew had succeeded in cutting the ropes and getting away. They ran aground on leaving the harbour but were able to refloat and get away.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
25 JUL 1947
SENT TO DEPT.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

1947

Paris

EASTERN

E6713/G

26 JUN 1947

98

296

31

E6713/48/G

Paris

Y47

July 25th

S.S. President Warfield

Rep. to his tel Y43 (E6698/48/G) gives details of arrangements for the arrival of ships carrying arms, for submission to the P.M.

Last Paper.

(E6712)

References.

(Minutes.)

Telegram sent to Paris and Marseilles quoting comments of o.c. troops in Addy. Telegram.

Now see E6733

26/7

1. Addy comms 25.YDOA/July 25 July

30/7

(Print.)

RPID BHE0609
Cin CHelf.

(How disposed.)

3) IP 30 July
Tel) PARIS 1709
Marseilles 93
26 July
RPID BHEO 608
3) IIP 30 July
To) Paris 1709
26 July
RPID Marseilles 94
Cin C Med
Jerusalem
Cin CHELF
3) IIP 30 July

(Action completed.)

25/7

(Index.)

Next Paper.

E6714

27437 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

99

Green
Feb 47

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Duff Cooper
No. 747.
July 25th, 1947.

D. 12.45 p.m. July 25th, 1947.
R. 2.15 p.m. July 25th, 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem
Marseilles
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

JJJ

MOST IMMEDIATE

TOP SECRET

My telegram No. 745. "President Warfield"

We have been informed strictly confidentially that following arrangements for arrival of ships carrying Jews from "President Warfield" are being submitted to Prime Minister today for approval.

2. (a) French Government will communicate to passengers on arrival message to the effect that if they wish to land they will be taken care of and will be free to go where they choose in France.

(b) Port at which ships should arrive is Port de Bouc. This will be kept secret as far as possible.

(c) Ships should arrive off this port at 0400 hours morning of Tuesday 29th July. They should moor at buoys outside port. After Health and other officials have visited ships passengers disembarking will be put on tugs.

(d) It has not yet been decided whether a French warship will meet the convoy.

(e) Trains will be held in readiness to transport Jews to whatever destination they choose.

(f) Representatives of interested Government Departments, including Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Food will form a Committee on the spot under the Chairmanship of the Prefect of the Bouches du Rhone or his representative. His Majesty's Consul Marseilles and representatives of the International Red Cross and Government Committee of Refugees will be invited to participate. Committee will if possible proceed to Port de Bouc on 28th July and supervise arrangements.

(g) M. Andre Blumel a prominent French Jew and former Chef de Cabinet to M. Leon Blum has been contacted and asked to assist in the arrangements.

3./.....

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3. As regards 2(a) there was some idea of broadcasting the message through loud speakers to the passengers but we have suggested that it is preferable that the French officials should convey the message to the passengers through a translator when they board the vessels on arrival.

4. With regard to 2(c) French consider that these arrangements should minimise possibilities of demonstrations. Quay at which tugs will deposit passengers will be cordoned off.

5. With regard to 2(f) we stated that we would wish His Majesty's Consul-General to be accompanied by one of his staff (we had Ashcroft in mind) and by representative of the Military Attaché. Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that if anyone went representing the Military Attaché he should be in plain clothes and ostensibly be a Vice-Consul on Mr. Kaye's staff.

6. I shall telegraph as soon as confirmation of these arrangements is received. Meanwhile no (repeat no) action should be taken upon them and they should be regarded as Top Secret particularly the port which is likely to be designated.

7. Northlands and Paducah have been forbidden to embark passengers but will probably be allowed to sail. We are maintaining pressure.

F.O. please pass to Jerusalem, Marseilles, C-in-C.Med.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem and to War Registry Admiralty for repetition to Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.]

Reference: FO 371/61818

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[redacted] SECRET

E6713 G

f.m.

IN

101

**WARNING :** This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad : " O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

251700A/July

From D.3.

Date 25. 7.47.
Received 2015

SECRETEX

Addressed Admiralty,
Info. C. in C.Med.Afloat, C. in C.Med.Malta.

IMMEDIATE.

A.M. 241614. After consultation O.C. Troops have following general comments.

(A) In view of persistent B.B.C. announcement that destination is Sete, consider most desirable that another port be selected and kept secret.

(B) General opinion is that immigrants will disembark peacefully provided no outside propaganda is encountered.

(C) Consider preferable transports proceed alongside at first light and disembarkation commences without delay. This will obviate difficulty of anti-sabotage precautions in a foreign port during dark hours.

(D) Immediate removal of immigrants from vicinity of transports after disembarkation is considered essential.

251700A

Advance copies sent D.C., R.C.

1st Lord
1st S L (3)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.
Secretary
Naval Secretary
U S S
D.C.(2)
O.D.(3)
D.N.I.(5)
R.C.
D of P (2)
D of P (Q) (2)
C.S.I.(2)
M.(10) ( for action and for F.O., C.O., Cab.Off.& M.I.5)

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Reference: FO 371/61818

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry No. E 6713/48/6 J.E.C.

~~Top Secret~~.
Secret.
~~Confidential~~.
~~Restricted~~.
~~Open~~.

*Draft.*

PARIS No 1707 -
~~MARSEILLES~~ No 93.

*Telegram.*

*No.*

*(Date)* June 26

*Repeat to :—*

B.M.E.O. Cairo
(For C. in C. M.E.L.F.)
No 608.

~~*En Clair*~~.
~~*Code.*~~
*Cypher.*

*Distribution :—*

Departmental No. 2

*Copies to :—*

I. I. P.

102

*F. O.,*

26 July 1947.

*Despatched* 1.55 p.M.

IMMEDIATE
SECRET

Paris.

~~Your~~ Telegram no 747 of 25th July:

"President Warfield"

Following comments were received from O.C. troops in charge of "President Warfield's" passengers before (repeat before) seeing your telegram under reference:

2. Begins (a) "General opinion is that immigrants will disembark peacefully provided no outside propaganda is encountered.

(b) Consider preferable transports moored alongside fast

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Reference: FO 371/51818

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Reference: FO 371 / 61818

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

103 at first light and disembarkation commences without delay. This will obviate difficulty of anti-sabotage precaution in a foreign port during dark hours.

(c) Immediate removal of impediments from vicinity of Hamburg after disembarkation is considered "essential" by us.

26/7

Green 104

E 6713/48/G

Secret

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL No: 2

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS No:1707

MARSEILLES No: 93

26th July 1947

D. 1.25.p.m.26th July 1947

Repeated to British Middle East Office Cairo No: 608

X:X:X:

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

Paris telegram No: 747 [of 25th July: "President Warfield"].

Following comments were received from O.C. troops in charge of "President Warfield's" passengers before (repeat before) seeing your telegram under reference.

2. Begins.

(a) "General opinion is that immigrants will disembark peacefully provided no outside propaganda is encountered.

(b) Consider preferable transports proceed alongside at first light and disembarkation commences without delay. This will obviate difficulty of anti-sabotage precautions in a foreign port during dark hours.

(c) Immediate removal of immigrants from vicinity of transports after disembarkation is considered essential."

Ends.

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Registry
No. E 6713/48/G

Top Secret.
~~Secret.~~
Confidential
Restricted.
~~Open.~~

I.P.G.

*Draft.*

H.M. Ambassador,
Paris.

*Telegram.*

No. 1709

(*Date*) June 26th

*Repeat to :—*

Marseilles 94.
Most Immediate

C. in C., Medit.
Most Immediate

Jerusalem
(without priority)

~~B.M.E.O. (C. in C. MELF)~~
~~(without priority)~~

C. in C. MELF

~~En Clair.~~
~~Code~~
*Cypher.*

*Distribution :—*

Departmental No. 2

*Copies to :—*

I.I.P.

105

*F.O.,*

26 July 1947.

*Despatched* 3.15 p *M.*

MOST IMMEDIATE

TOP SECRET

Your telegrams Nos. 747, 749 and 750 [of 25th July: "President Warfield"].

While general arrangements decided upon by French Government seem quite satisfactory, I am very much concerned ~~indeed~~ about arrangements for committee to go on board and make statement on the lines indicated in paragraph (e) of your telegram No. 750.

2. It would be far preferable that committee do not go on board at all, but if this cannot be prevented, then it is of utmost importance that statement should be amended to omit the objectionable phrases "French "Government . . . will not force them to "disembark", "will give refuge to all who "disembark voluntarily. Those who decide to "disembark . . ." and the whole of the last sentence ~~"Those persons wishing to "disembark . . . ."~~.

3. It is of course ~~after all~~ for H.M.G. to arrange disembarkation and for the French Government to arrange reception when they have left the ship on French soil, and French Government must not interfere with our part of the operation. It is intention of H.M.G. that everything possible should be done to ensure voluntary and peaceful disembarkation of the passengers (see in this connexion my telegram No. 1707), but

H.M.G./

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(13556) Wt. 43697-140 100m 3/47 G.S.St. Gp 620

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Reference: FO 371/61818

106

H.M.G. must preserve the right, if the passengers resist, to use such force as is necessary, ~~to compel them to do so.~~ In any event, ~~it is of the utmost importance that~~ no encouragement ~~should~~ must be given to the passengers not repeat not to disembark. ~~If French Government put obstacles in the way of disembarkation of the passengers, this clearly nullifies, or tends to nullify, the agreement which they have given to take the passengers back.~~

4. Please make ~~the most~~ urgent and pressing representations to the French Government, ~~either~~ on this matter. You should in the first instance urge the French Govt to agree that the committee should not go aboard the vessel, ~~or failing that~~ If however they insist on this you should urge that the proposed statement is modified in the sense indicated above, ~~and report results to me by most immediate telegram.~~

5. We should be prepared if necessary to accept statement on following lines:-

"French Government wish to make known to the immigrants who were on board the "Exodus 1947" that they will give them refuge on French soil, where they will enjoy all the freedom etc. etc." - and delete the final sentence beginning "In consequence . . .".

26.7.

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DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN.

Green

107

E 6713/48/G
Top Secret

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No. 1709 D. 3.15 p.m. 26th July 1947

26th July 1947
Repeated to Marseilles No. 94 (Most Immediate)

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean (Most Immediate)

Jerusalem
Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F.

c c c c c

MOST IMMEDIATE
TOP SECRET

Your telegrams Nos. 747, 749 and 750 [of 25th July: "President Warfield"].

While general arrangements decided upon by French Government seem quite satisfactory, I am very much concerned about arrangements for committee to go on board and make statement on the lines indicated in paragraph (c) of your telegram No. 750.

2. It would be far preferable that committee do not go on board at all, but if this cannot be prevented, then it is of utmost importance that statement should be amended to omit the objectionable phrases "French Government..... will not force them to disembark", "will give refuge to all who disembark voluntarily . Those who decide to disembark ....." and the whole of the last sentence.

3. It is of course for His Majesty's Government to arrange disembarkation and for the French Government to arrange reception when they have left the ship and French Government must not interfere with our part of the operation. It is intention of His Majesty's Government that everything possible should be done to ensure voluntary and peaceful disembarkation of the passengers (see in this connexion my telegram No. 1707), but His Majesty's Government must reserve the right, if the passengers resist, to use such force as is necessary. In any event, no encouragement must be given to the passengers not (repeat not) to disembark.

4./....

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108

4. Please make urgent and pressing representations to the French Government on this matter. You should in the first instance urge the French Government to agree that the committee should not go aboard the vessels. If, however, they insist on this you should urge that the proposed statement is modified in the sense indicated above.

5. We should be prepared if necessary to accept statement on following lines:-

"French Government wish to make known to the immigrants who were on board the "Exodus 1947" that they will give them refuge on French soil, where they will enjoy all the freedom etc. etc." - and delete the final sentence beginning "In consequence.....".

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Reference: FO 371/61818

1947

Palestine
EASTERN

E 6914/G
25 JUN 1947

297 31 109

E 6714/48/G

Tunis

52

July 22nd

Suspect Shipping off Tunisia

Ref to this tel. 51 (E 6598/48/G)
British Military administration at Tunis should be instructed to refuse exit permits.

Last Paper.
E 6613

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)
(1) Lt Col Chantois H.04 W.O
from M. Castle 28th July
(2) Con Gen Tunis from E Dept 11th Aug.

(Minutes.)
Letter to Lt. Col. Chantois W.O.
B.U. 10th August
26/7

See within
1. W.O comm 92662 2 Aug
Letter to Tunis Chancery.
9/8

(Action completed.)
BU 10/8

(Index.)
W/H

Next Paper.

27437 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

E

E 6/114

110

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM TUNIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Acting British Consul General
No. 52
22nd July, 1947.

D. 5.00 p.m. 22nd July, 1947
R. 11.55 p.m. 22nd July, 1947

0 0 0 0

E/G

Paragraph 3 of my immediately preceding telegram.

2. Residency general request that British Military administration at Zuara and other frontier posts be instructed, if possible, to refuse exit permits and facilities for onward journey into Tunisia of all persons not in possession of valid passport and visa for Tunis.

3. Drought has caused increased unemployment and authorities are desirous of supressing all illegal immigration into Tunisian [gp.undec.].

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Reference: FO 371/61818

Registry No. E 6714/48/6

J.E.C.

OUT FILE

July 28th

28m

111

Confidential

Draft.

M.S.C.

LT. COL. CHARTERIS

M.O. 4

W.O.

from

Mr. Cable

I enclose copies of telegrams nos. 51 and 52 from H.M. Consul-General Tunis about Jewish illegal immigration from Tripolitania to Tunisia.

2. I am not sure whether the British Military Administration of Tripolitania falls within province. If not, perhaps you would pass this letter to the Dept. concerned. we

3. While ~~I~~ appreciate the difficulties of ~~controlling~~ controlling such a frontier, ~~we~~ I hope that the military authorities in this area will make every effort to prevent clandestine movements of Jews. Quite apart from our desire to assist the French authorities in Tunisia, whose attitude has been more helpful than that

/of

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Reference: FO 371/61818

112 of some of their colleagues in Metropolitan France, you will readily appreciate that such ~~wanderers~~ Jews leaving Tripolitania by stealth will probably attempt to reach Palestine.

26/7

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Reference: FO 371/61818

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S. W. OUT FILE 113

28th July, 1947.

(E 6714/48/G)
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Martin,

I enclose copies of telegrams Nos. 51 and 52 from His Majesty's Consul-General, Tunis, about Jewish illegal immigration from Tripolitania to Tunisia.

2. I am not sure whether the British Military Administration of Tripolitania falls within your province. If not, perhaps you would pass this letter to the department concerned.

3. While we appreciate the difficulties of controlling such a frontier, we hope that the military authorities in this area will make every effort to prevent clandestine movements of Jews. Quite apart from our desire to assist the French authorities in Tunisia, whose attitude has been more helpful than that of some of their colleagues in metropolitan France, you will readily appreciate that Jews leaving Tripolitania by stealth will probably attempt to reach Palestine.

Yours sincerely,

(J. E. Cable)

Lieutenant-Colonel
M. M. C. Charteris,
M.O.4.,
War Office.

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Reference: FO 371/51818

E

# CIPHER TELEGRAM

7 AUG 1947

f. w. and submit

114

**This message will not be distributed outside British Government Departments or Headquarters or re-transmitted, even in cipher, without being paraphrased. (Messages marked O.T.P. need not be paraphrased).**

E6914 G

Desp. 2 Aug 47
021430/B Aug.

FROM : WAR OFFICE.

To : C. in C. M.E.L.F.(for Civaffairs)

SECRET. 92662 CA2a/493.

Ref your 96887 G(O)I cipher of 18 July 47.

Question of illegal Entry Jewish immmingrants into Tunisia from Tripolitania referred to Foreign Office by British Consul Tunis who states Residency General has requested that B.M.A. at Zuara and other frontier posts be instructed if possible to refuse exit permits and facilities for onward journey of all persons not in possession of valid passport and visa for Tunis.

Request you inform us by signal whether any measures can be taken by B.M.A. to prevent any such movement in future.

Message Control.

IMPORTANT.
Copies to :-
D.C.A.
D.D.C.A.(MG)
C.A.1,2a.
M.O.1,4.
Foreign Office (Mr. Scott-Fox)
" " (Mr. J.E.Gale)

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Reference: FO 371/61818

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry No. E 6714/48/G J.E.C.

Draft.

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

Consulate-General Tunis

From Eastern Dept.

OUT FILE Reg. 111a 115

Confidential

Dear Consulate-General,

In your telegram no. 52 you reported that the French authorities had also asked that our military authorities in Tripolitania should be instructed to refuse exit permits and travel facilities to all persons attempting to enter Tunisia without valid passports and visas.

2. The War Office have asked C. in C. MELF to report what measures ~~they~~ are being taken ~~or taking~~ to prevent such clandestine movements in the future.

/We

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Reference: FO 371/61818

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

116 We will inform you as soon as a reply has been received from C. in C. M.E.F.

Yours ever
Eastern Dept.
9/8

OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S. W. 1.

117

11th August, 1947.

(E 6714/48/G)
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Consulate-General,

In your telegram No. 52 you reported that the French authorities had asked that our military authorities in Tripolitania should be instructed to refuse exit permits and travel facilities to all persons attempting to enter Tunisia without valid passports and visas.

2. The War Office have asked Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F. to report what measures are being taken to prevent such clandestine movements in the future. We will inform you as soon as a reply has been received from Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

British Consulate-General,
Tunis.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

101

# E

1947

PALESTINE

118

E 6717

20 JUL 1947

Registry Number: E 6717/48/31

FROM: Chancery Wilton

No. 382

Dated: 19 July

Received in Registry: 26 July.

Illegal Immigration Roumania

Ref F.O letter E 3612/48/31 of 19/5.

Does not expect much help from State Depr. in connection with the American Joint Distribution committee in Roumania.

**Last Paper.**

G6714

**References.**

E 4558/48/31

E 5513/9.

(Minutes.)

Letter to Bucharest Chancery.

26/7

To H.M.P. Chancery, Bucharest 44/40/47 12/8.

23/8

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

To) Chancery, Bucharest

✓ 29 July

(Action completed.)

(Indexed)

**Next Paper.**

E 6732



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Reference: FO 371/61818

E 119

6717
28 JUL 1947

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

19th July 1947

Ref: 382/6/47
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Department,

We have given the Near East Division of the State Department the gist of the information contained in your letter E.3612/48/31 of 19th May, your despatch No.1133 (E.4558/48/31) of 6th June, and your letter E.5513/48/G of 1st July about the American Joint Distribution Committee in Roumania.

The Near East Division expressed interest in this story, which had not come to their attention before, but we are doubtful whether we can expect much benefit therefrom in so far as American support for the American Joint Distribution Committee is concerned unless we are able to give the facts discreetly to trustworthy journalists. Even then we doubt whether the story has at present much news value and you may feel that this suggestion is in any case undesirable, since we imagine that Jacobson is still in Roumania.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. E6717/48/31
J.E.C.

Draft.
Chancery Buchurest
from
Eastern Dept.

OUT FILE

28a
120
29 July

Confidential

Dear Chancery,

We enclose a copy of a Washington Chancery's letter nos. 382/6/47 of the 19th July about the A.J.D.C. in Roumania.

2. We passed on to them the information given by you in your letters nos. 74/27/47 of 20th May and 11th June and in your telegram no. 443.

3. We should be grateful for your comments on the suggestion that this information should be made available to the press.

Yours ever
Eastern Dept.

26/7

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Reference: FO 371/61818

OUT FILE 121

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(E 6717/48/31)

29th July, 1947

CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Chancery,

We enclose a copy of a Washington Chancery's letter No. 382/6/47 of the 19th July about the American Joint Distribution Committee in Roumania.

2. We passed on to them the information given by you in your letters Nos. 74/27/47 of the 20th May and 11th June and in your telegram No. 443.

3. We should be grateful for your comments on the suggestion that this information should be made available to the press.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

The Chancery,
British Legation,
Bucharest.

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E.6717/48/31 INDEXED AUG 1947

E 122

Office of the British
Political Representative,
BUCHAREST.

74/40/47 12th August, 1947.

Dear Eastern Department,

Your letter E.6717/48/31 of 29th July regarding the American Joint Distribution Committee in Roumania.

Jacobson has now left Roumania and it is not likely that he will return. Until we know who is to be his successor in the American Joint Distribution Committee we cannot estimate the possible results of publication of the information to which your letter referred.

In general we agree with Washington Chancery that the information has little news value. Publication of it is unlikely to serve any useful purpose.

Yours ever,
CHANCERY.

OFFICE OF BRITISH POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE BUCHAREST

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

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298 • 1947 31

Palestine

EASTERN

E 6732/G

26 JUN 1947

123

E 6732/48/G

Paris

449

July 25th

S.S. President Warfield.

Rep. to his tel 449 (E 6713/48/G)

Arrangements have now been generally confirmed.

**Last Paper.**

E 6/44

**References.**

(Minutes.)

Now see E 6733

26/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

P/Cd Charters, US July 26.

8) U.P. 26 July

(Action completed.)

25 28/7

(Index.)

**Next Paper.**

(E 6733)

27437 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

E6432 124

Cypher/OTP. DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2.

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Duff Cooper.
No. 749. D. 8.45 p.m. 25th July 1947.
25th July 1947. R.10.15 p.m. 25th July 1947.

Repeated to: Marseilles;
Jerusalem and
C. in C. Mediterranean.

W:W:W:W:W

MOST IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

My telegram No.747.

President Warfield.

Arrangements have now been generally confirmed. Fuller details in my immediately following telegram.

2. It is expected that the Committee referred to in paragraph 2 (F) of my telegram under reference will hold its first meeting in Marseilles at 2 p.m. on Sunday 27th July though it is not certain that His Majesty's Consul General will be convened to this first meeting.

3. I am considering sending a member of my staff down to Marseilles to brief and assist His Majesty's Consul General.

Foreign Office please pass Most Immediate to Commander in Chief Mediterranean and Immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram No.19.

[Copies sent to War Registry Admiralty for repetition to Commander in Chief Mediterranean and to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem.

Repeated to B.M.E.O. Cairo for Commander in Chief M.E.L.F. on instructions from Resident Clerk.]

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299 1947

Palestine

EASTERN

E 6133 /G

26 JUN 1947

125

E 6433/148/G 31

Paris

450

July 25th

S.S. President Warfield

Refs. to this at 149 (E 6132/148/G)

Gives further details of proposed arrangements.

**Last Paper.**

(E 6432)

**References.**

(Minutes.)

Para. (5) is quite unacceptable and a telegram urged by W.O. and authorised by Mr. Wright has been sent to this effect.

26/7

1. Addy Comm Let No Cin C Med 26113015/July 26 July.

30/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Col Charters, WO July 26

8) I.I.P. 26 July

(Action completed.)

31/7

(Index.)

**Next Paper.**

(E 6459)

27437 F.O.F.

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Reference: FO 371/61818

HG/33

Cypher/OTP. DEPARTMENTAL NO.2. 126

FROM PARIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Duff Cooper. D. 9.46 p.m. 25th July, 1947.
No.750. R. 11.05 p.m. 25th July, 1947.
25th July, 1947.

Repeated to Marseilles,
Jerusalem,
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

- - - - -

MOST IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

Foreign Office please repeat most immediate to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean and immediate to Jerusalem as my telegram No.20.

My immediately preceding telegram.

President Warfield.

Final decision contains following particulars additional to those given in my telegram No.747:

(A) Each passenger ship should enter harbour separately and tie up at buoy some distance from shore, succeeding ship not entering until preceding ship has disembarked passengers who volunteer to land. Committee will decide course of action on the spot if, for instance, passengers in first ship refuse to land.

(B) Those who land will be kept 24 hours at Port de Bouc and looked after by Entraide Française (French may try to reclaim cost from I.R.O.).

(C) Committee will, in consultation with representative of Jewish organisation, decide eventual destinations in France.

(D) His Majesty's Embassy are asked to invite escorting British warships not to proceed beyond limits of territorial waters, leaving passenger ships to enter port alone.

(E) Committee will go on board each ship after she has tied up at buoy and will make announcement in French, Hebrew and Yiddish in following terms:

[Begins]

"French Government wish to make known to the immigrants who were on board the "Exodus 1947" that they will not force them to disembark, but will give refuge to all who disembark voluntarily. Those who decide to disembark on French soil will enjoy there all the freedom that France, a traditional land of welcome for refugees, and whose citizens have always fought for the freedom of the human person, accords to those who seek refuge on its

/territory.

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127



territory. At the same time their material needs will be met to the greatest possible extent. In consequence those persons wishing to disembark are requested to present themselves to the French officials controlling the disembarkation".

[Copies sent to War Registry Admiralty for repetition to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean and to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem.]

[Repeated to B.M.E.O. Cairo for Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F. on instructions from Resident Clerk]

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Reference: FO 371/61818

[redacted] SECRET

E6733 G.W.

OUT 1/28 GND

**WARNING** : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(NOTE* : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad : "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

261130B/July

To C. in C. Mediterranean (Afloat)
Info. C. in C. Mediterranean (Malta) Date 26.7.47
D.3

SECRETEX

From Admiralty

IMMEDIATE

Presume you have passed Ambassador Paris's telegrams Nos. 747, 749 and 750 to D.3

These answer (A), (C) and (D) of D.3's 251700

Reference (B), desirability of consulting immigrants about whether they wish to land or not is being urgently discussed between War Office and Foreign Office

261130B

for Head of Military Branch (808)

1st Lord
1st S.L. (3)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.
Naval Secretary
Secretary
U.S.S.
O.D. (8)
D.C. (2)
D.N.I. (5)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (Q) (2)
C.N.I. (2)
M. (8) and for F.O. (Mr. J.E. Cable)
C.O. (Mr. J.D. Higham)
Cab. Off. (Cdr. W. Evershed)
M.I.5 (Mr. T.A. Robertson)
W.O. (Lt. Col. The Hon. M.M.C. Charteris)

ra
57

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